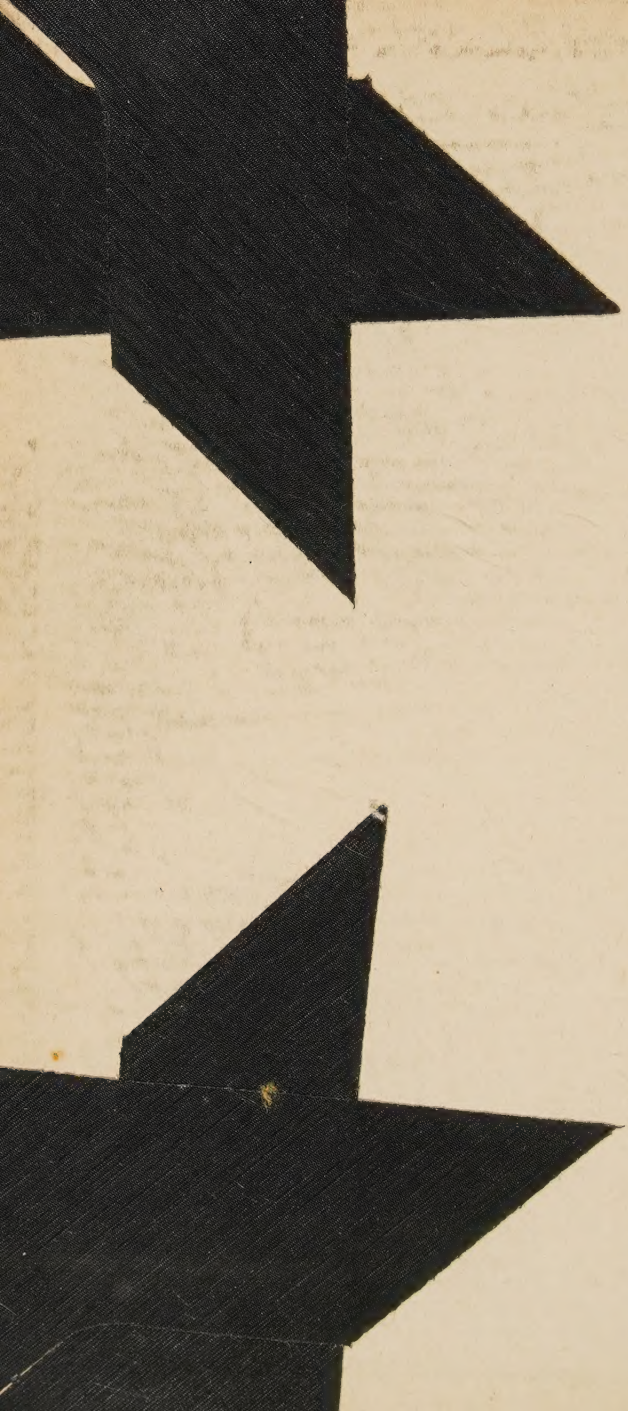
TRAGIC STORY OF AMERICA'S GREATEST DISASTER

COMPLETE AUTHENTIC

TORNADO, FLOOD AND FIRE
IN
OHIO, INDIANA, NEBRASKA
AND
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY



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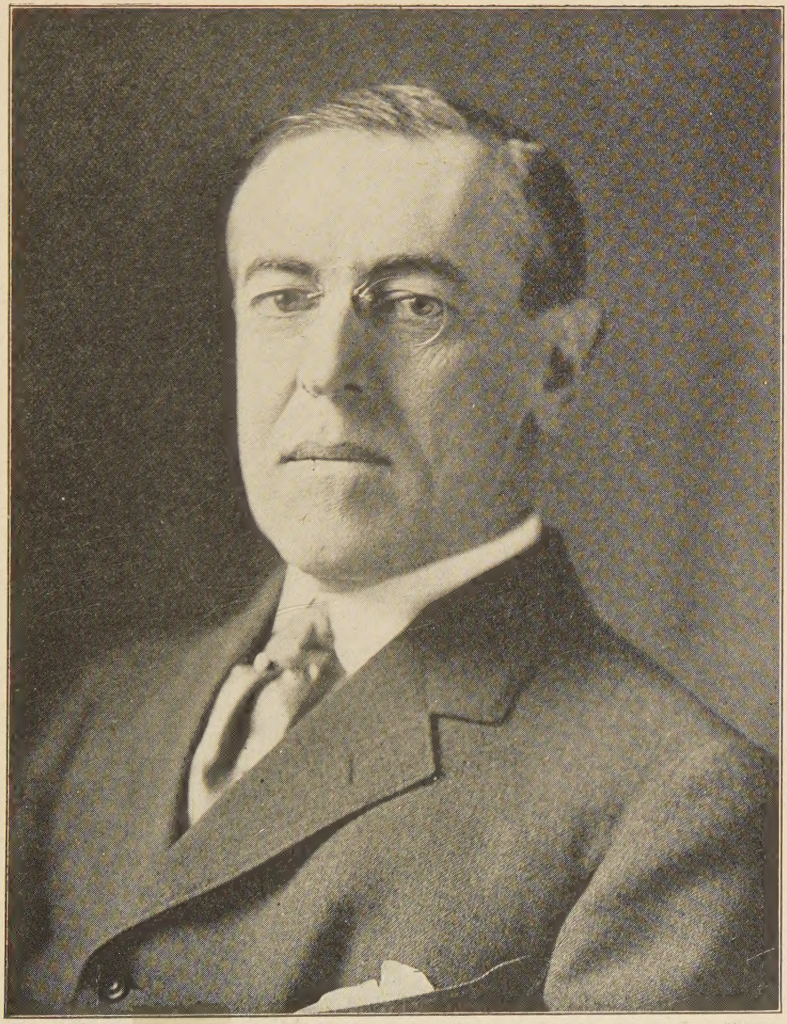

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President of the United States.

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JAMES M. COX,
Governor of Ohio.

TRAGIC STORY
OF
AMERICA'S GREATEST
DISASTER

TORNADO, FLOOD AND FIRE IN OHIO, INDIANA, NEBRASKA AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

A Graphic and Startling Account of the Most Thrilling Personal Experiences, Awful Tragedies, Miraculous Escapes, Acts of Heroism and Self-Sacrifice, Told By the Survivors and Rescuers.

"My judgment is that there has never been such a tragedy in the history of the Republic."
—JAMES M. COX, Governor of Ohio.

By MARSHALL EVERETT
The Great Descriptive Writer
Author of the "Story of the Titanic Disaster."

ILLUSTRATED THROUGHOUT WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS, DIAGRAMS AND DRAWINGS

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THE DELUGE AFTER GUSTAVE DORE

Drawn by E. R. Higgins, one of America's Greatest Cartoonists. Many Other Great Cartoonists have contributed to this volume.

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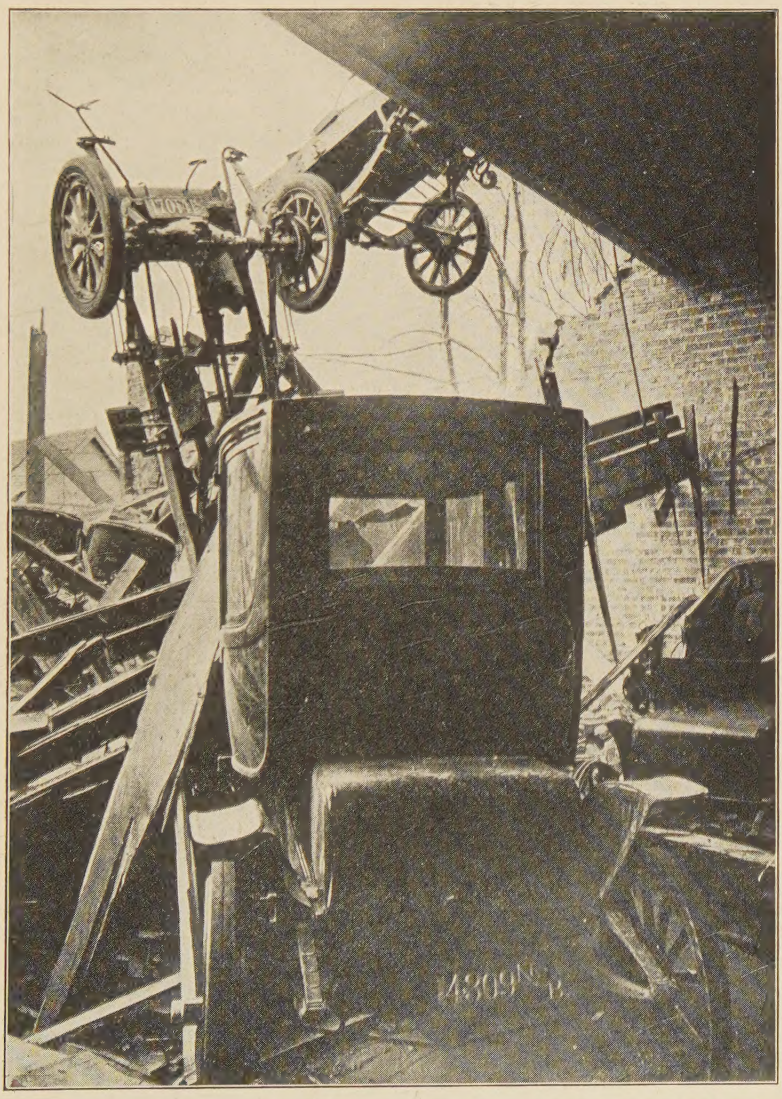

Automobile Wrecked by the Tornado in Omaha, Nebraska.

Scene in Factory District During High Water at Massillon, Ohio.

Squatter Who Refused to Move—Defies Police Warning and is Carried Away by the Flood

Frame Building Filled with People at South Hamilton, Swept by Flood and Two Sides Torn Away.

Memorial Monument in Hamilton, Ohio. Through These Streets the Water Rushed, Six Feet Deep, at the Rate of Twenty Miles an Hour.

Street in South Hamilton, Ohio, Where the People Did Not Have Time to Get Away Before the Flood Engulfed Them.

Rescuing Two Men from Top of Old Barn, with a Launch, at Toledo, Ohio.

Flood Driving People to Top of Livery Barn in Delaware, Ohio.

Looking Across the Flood to the Center of Dayton, Ohio.

Houses in Dayton Almost and Altogether Submerged by the Raging Waters. People Clung to Roofs Until Rescued.

Boats to the Rescue of Teachers and Children from Stivers High School, Dayton, Ohio.

Watching Flood Rescuers at Work from Shelter of Umbrellas at Edge of Dayton Flood.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

STORY OF TORNADO AND FLOOD

EASTER SUNDAY OF 1913 TRAGIC DAY IN HISTORY OF CALAMITIES—TORNADO STARTS IN MEXICO—ENDS IN RECORD BREAKING FLOODS IN MIDDLE STATES—NATION GREAT IN POWER TO HELP—MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES AS LIFE SAVERS.

Spring came to the earth in 1913 and the northern half of the United States was in the grip of a snow storm. In some portions a blizzard wailed throu towns and cities and the hope of an early s as blasted. But nature had still greater surprise people of the United States and a few days after officially was present the greatest tornado and rain a the greatest inland flood in the history of the country— fell upon the people.

Easter Sunday is the day when all self-respecting persons are expected to have new garments and to attend worship which is embellished with the best music rendered by the greatest singers to be obtained. On Easter of 1913 the rains fell and weather wise persons looked at

the skies. Few spots in the west and middle west permitted Easter hats or garments unless protected by a closed carriage or limousine car.

All day the elements acted strangely. Late in the afternoon the tornado which gathered in the southwest, probably starting in Mexico, raced north and east. It struck smaller villages and towns in Colorado and Nebraska. It now is known that the wind played a queer trick. It appeared to hit the earth at one spot, bound into the clouds and pass over miles of territory, leaving buildings and crops and people unharmed.

What forces decided that the tornado should hit the earth at Omaha, one of the proudest cities of the nation, cannot be known by men, but just at the city's borders the winds came down and ripped a path through the thickly inhabited portion, taking rich and poor be-[illegible] its relentless fury.

[illegible] the states farther east the storm manifested itself [illegible] rain. Never was the earth so drenched. The ground was frozen and the waters rushed into the streams.

Telegraph lines were broken, railway trains stopped, bridges washed out and millions of people unaccustomed to seas or lakes found their homes in the midst of raging waters.

The first news told of the unhappy plight of the people of Dayton, Ohio. Because of its size the attention of the world was focused upon Dayton, but scores of

smaller places were also engulfed and the inhabitants left to fight the awful battle almost alone.

Later, Peru, Ind. was reported under water and currents relentless in their force swept through the streets. Columbus, Ohio, Logansport, Ind., Terre Haute, Ind., which also was hit by the tornado, West Indianapolis, Marion, Ind., and a score of other communities were reported wholly or partly submerged.

All the customary activities of the people of Indiana and Ohio were abandoned. Railway service was abolished and trains with relief parties wandered about from one division to another seeking an approach to the stricken cities.

Now and then the train would reach the limit a then the rescuers would unload the cars and take wagons and automobiles, to rafts or boats. Thes tempts to push on to the thousands marooned on tops and in trees were sometimes successful but m often a failure.

Not until Wednesday was the relief begun in a way that promised success. Life saving crews from the Ohio and Great Lakes were dispatched to the scene, their boats, cutters and power vessels of light craft being hastily loaded upon flat cars. The naval reserves of lake and river towns were ordered into the field and found service in the prairies and hill country far from the seas. The Culver Military academy on Lake Max-

inkuckee, Ind., where sons of wealthy men are educated and taught military and naval practices, turned out its sturdy young men.

Boats housed for the winter were hauled to the railways and the boys with their military instructors left their studies to engage in the battle with the flood. In the swift currents and dangers of floating debris the training of the lads was shown to be of great service. They handled their cutters on the Wabash river and the Eel river in such a way that hundreds of men, women and children were soon taken from the tops of their houses, from top floors of office buildings and cared for in camps and other refuges. The Great Lakes Naval training station maintained at Lake Bluff, Ill., near Chicago by the federal government was directed to send a crew and officers to the flood district and the boys and their experienced officers were taken in all haste by railway trains to the dreadful scene.

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Tragic Story of America's Greatest Disaster

CHAPTER I

SWEEP OF THE DISASTER

NATURE SHOWS MEN ARE PIGMIES—EFFECTS OF BUTCHERING FORESTS—GATES OF HEAVEN OPENED—WHAT NATION MUST DO.

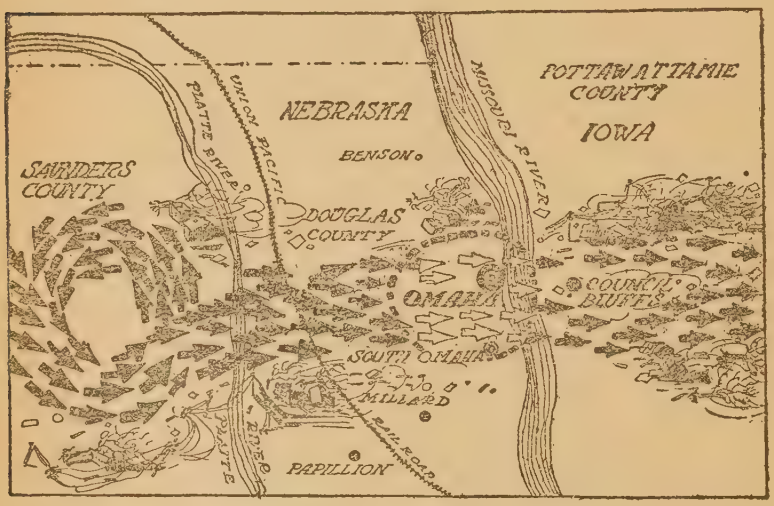
Nature on the night of Sunday, March 23, 1913 and the week following proved to modern men that they still are pigmies. Thousands of lives were taken and millions of property destroyed in a few short hours and for days homes were beneath the muddy waters from deforested hills.

Never before was the United States so smitten by a calamity, nor one so wide spread as that which began on Monday of the fatal week. Omaha was the first large city to suffer. A tornado swept through the great metropolis wiping huts and mansions, factory buildings and other business structures from the face of the earth,

leaving only a mass of debris and thousands of homeless people wandering about the hills, half clothed and suffering in the pitiless weather of that fatal night.

GATES OF HEAVEN OPEN.

Following the tornado which so sorely hurt Omaha and destroyed a score of other communities, the gates



COURSE OF THE TORNADO

of heaven appeared to be opened above the earth. The atmospheric disturbances extended as far east as the Atlantic coast states and everywhere in the country high winds prevailed. Torrents of rain fell upon frozen ground and the waters rushed into the valleys. Brooks became torrents, bottom lands became lakes, dams broke

and from Pittsburgh west to the Mississippi came cries of distress. Telegraph wires and telephones lines were broken and many a frantic newspaper editor found the source of information cut off while the terrible messages were half told.

On the morning of Tuesday, March 25, the whole nation realized that the supreme calamity had fallen upon the country. So widespread was the disaster that almost every home in the nation had an intimate interest in the news that came so slowly from the stricken district. Traveling friends, kinsmen of almost every family were menaced and the wires were crowded with messages which could not be delivered.

RED CROSS TO RESCUE.

Red Cross relief forces were dispatched from all quarters by Ernest P. Bicknell from his office in Washington, D. C. Federal troops and national guardsmen were called to arms, to become boatmen in city streets, life savers, foremen, and nurses.

The war department directed that all commanding officers of posts in the vicinity of wind swept and flooded districts take what ever means their judgment suggested for the relief of the homeless people. Tents were provided, food supplies shipped and every means known to a great modern nation were used to remedy the harm

done by an unprecedent natural upheaval of the elements.

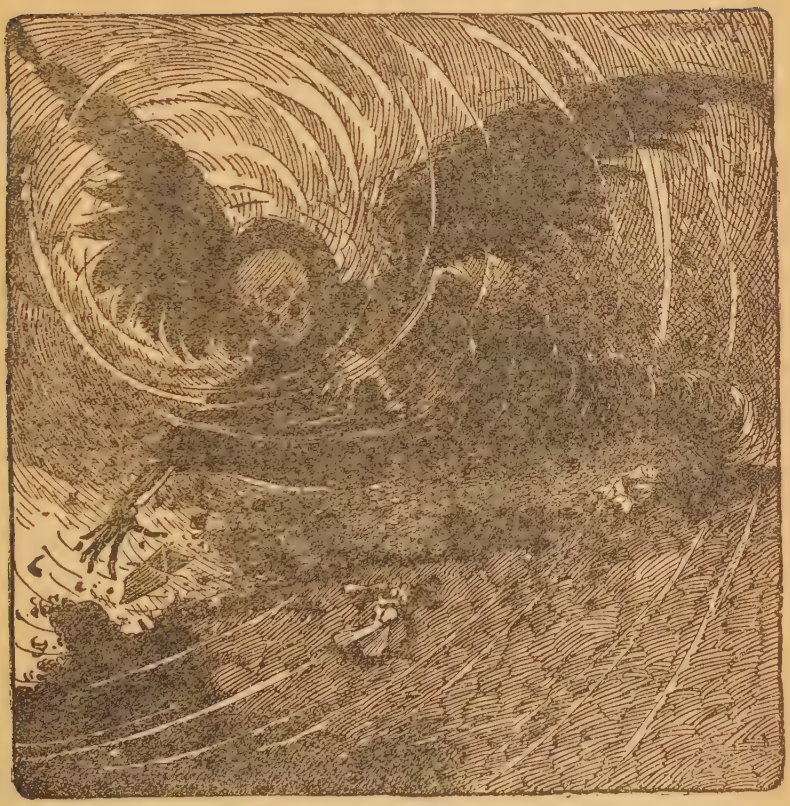
On Tuesday morning Mr. Bicknell started for Omaha after issuing telegraphic orders to Red Cross forces to meet him there. Before he was half way to the western city where the need seemed to be greatest, he was halted by reports from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky where scores of small streams had broken through their natural banks and levees.

At this point the demand for coffins in Indiana became so great that the governor of that state ordered caskets from Chicago by the car load.

DAYTON UNDER WATER.

At Dayton, Ohio, the climax of the middle western flood appeared to have been reached. Dayton was no longer a city, large sections were under water, business was suspended and all able bodied men turned out to become rescuers.

In the face of such a calamity the forces of intelligence were put to work to find some means of preventing a recurrence of such calamities. None could suggest a method for controlling the cyclone or tornado, but floods are believed to be the result of failure to take precautions. The flood gave opportunity to those who believe in forestry to point out that floods follow the deforestation of the mountains and hill sides. When



From the Herald Transcript, Peoria, Ill.

ON THE WINGS OF THE STORM.

the high spots of earth are covered with trees and underbrush the waters are held and find their way to the streams slowly and there are no great floods. But when the exploiting lumberman butchers the great forests the path is cleared. Water falling from the clouds rushes into the streams and disaster ensues.

WHAT NATION MUST DO.

Out of the floods of the spring of 1913 probably will come new interest in forestry, new interest in dams to control flood waters and to produce electrical power and this disaster, like many another, will work for ultimate good of mankind.

When telegraph and telephone communication broke down in the face of wind, fire and flood, public attention was called to the backward policy of the federal government. In spite of the wonderful success of wireless telegraphy on the seas, the development of inland stations has been left to individual commercial initiative. As a result there is no system of inland wire-telegraph. Had such a system been established the nation would have not suffered the humiliation of seeing one of its greatest cities cut off from its neighbors and left to fight the awful battle alone.

WHAT WILL COME OUT OF FLOOD.

Out of the storms and flood and fire has come again the call to collective action. Too long have the people left to individuals and corporations the work of developing and protecting the earth and its people. In the face of such calamities, the puny efforts of individuals and corporation is glaringly apparent. No force except the collective will and energy of the whole nation can

From Chicago Tribune

A GREAT DISASTER

protect the forested hill, or replant the deforested ones, or carry on projects to empound the flood water for the beneficent purposes of civilization.

This book will accomplish good in recording for future generations this story of suffering and heroism, and it will also impress upon the American people the fact that the time is passed when the welfare of the whole people can safely be left to individuals.

From Omaha World-Herald

"I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"

CHAPTER II

HOW TORNADOES ARE CAUSED

SUN SPOTS AFFECT TEMPERATURE AND SET AIR CURRENTS TO BATTLE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

By Albert Ford Ferguson.

A tiny spot appears on the face of the sun.

Immediately a tornado rips a piece from the surface of the earth, 92,000,000 miles away!

Or a blizzard wraps a dozen states in its freezing arms!

Or a deluge of rain fills the beds of rivers and streams and hurls death and destruction everywhere!

No matter which of these happens—the storm king has somewhere obeyed the command that came to him from the sun—a lackey of Old Sol to jump the instant a button is pressed.

It was just such a spot, no doubt, on the far-flung sun, that caused the death-dealing tornado which has ripped this week a great hole in the middle of our map, killing hundreds of persons, splitting thousands of dwellings in twain and destroying millions in property.

SUN SPOTS AFFECT TEMPERATURE.

How is it, you ask, that so distant a force as a speck on the glowing orb of day can bring such devastation to the "good ship Earth?"

Well, it is the investigations of Father Jerome S. Ricard, S. J., of the Santa Clara university, California, which have proven to the satisfaction of weather experts that sun spots are responsible for great storms on this globe. They, he has shown, cause changes of temperature which affects the earth's atmosphere where it is most sensitive—at the equator and the poles. This, in turn, starts a whirl of air that develops in speed—and you have a great storm.

The natural question, then, is why is there a storm sometimes in Chicago, for instance, while there is none in Denver?

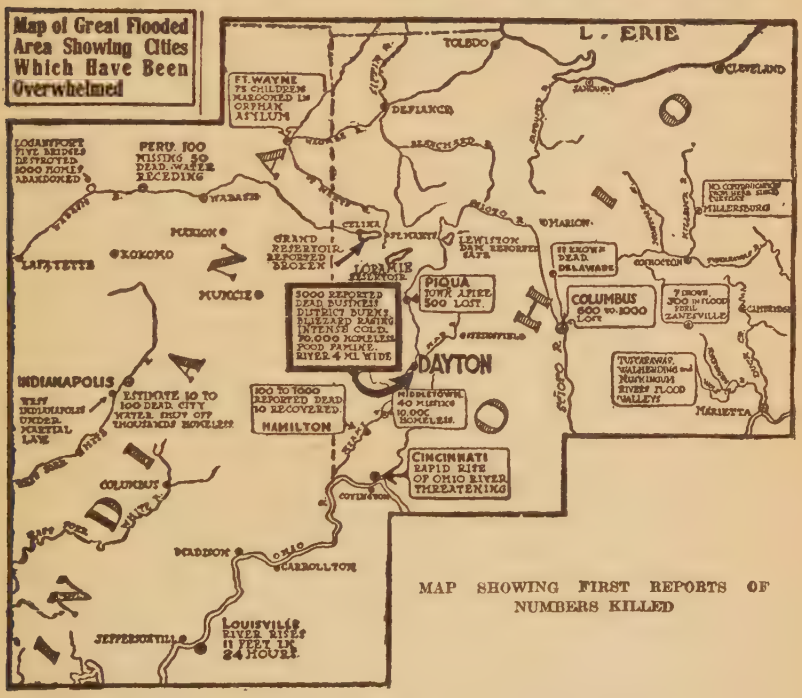
The answer sums up the entire matter of weather problems, for the conditions which control the local atmospheres of different sections are entirely different. Thus a spot which causes a deluge of rain in Louisiana simply makes the weather a bit hotter in Yuma, Arizona, or cooler at Washington, D. C.

The reason for this is that a sun spot has instant effect on two currents of air or whirls in the air, one from the north pole going south and one from the equator going north.

AIR CURRENTS IN BATTLE.

The storm is the battle between these two currents when they meet.

That battle MAY take place so high in the air that



MAP SHOWING FIRST REPORTS OF NUMBERS KILLED

there is little or no effect felt on the surface of the earth.

Or they may meet on a battle plain near to us and a violent storm—generally of tornado tendencies—ensues.

There are two general storm paths in the world—one north and the other south of the equator.

The northern path starts at the equator and moves

northwestward so long as it remains south of the 30th parallel on a line with the city of New Orleans. Once across this line it turns and travels northeast until it spends itself or reaches the polar regions.

The same condition holds good with the southern path, except that the original direction is southeast and the change is to the southwest.

Sunspots having started air whirls from both ends of the path, the tendency of the southern whirl, being warmer, is to rise and of the northern whirl to stay close to the surface. If the northern current is thick enough, as it usually is in the winter time, the effect of the southern current will be lost. Anything that will send the southern current higher into the air will shield the country directly in front of it from the violence of the change of atmosphere it causes. Thus a mountain range will sometimes shoot the disturbing element so high that while a severe storm will take place on one side of the mountains, the other side is not affected at all.

DANGER IN PRAIRIE.

A long stretch of flat country, however, will permit this southern current to settle down, if it happens to be very heavy, and so get closer to the earth.

That is one of the explanations given for the prevalence of severe storms in the prairie-like section of the United States between the Alleghenies and the Rockies.

From Chicago Inter-Ocean

OHIO'S AND INDIANA'S APPEAL FOR HELP

It will be noticed that the most severe storms of this sort are met in the central section of this flat area, in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, Iowa, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the western part of the province of Ontario.

The great lakes serve as a deflector of the currents in this country because of the excess of moisture in the air over these great bodies of water and the consequent heaviness of the atmosphere at these points. For that reason the storms on the lakes are greater and more frequent in winter than in summer because the northern current, which freezes and removes this moisture, has the easier time. The southern current being warmer and lighter naturally passes over the lakes at a high altitude, although, of course, it sometimes creates big disturbances.

By means of the daily reports received by telegraph at the weather bureau in Washington and in the weather services in all the European countries, in Japan and in the observatory in the Philippine islands, together with the wireless reports received from stations and ships, a rather accurate forecast of the conditions in the northern half of the world can be made.

HOW WEATHER BUREAU WORKS.

This is possible because the observers are acquainted with the conditions in each locality where an observation is made and by close watch extending over a long period of years, are able to tell what certain recognized changes are likely to bring forth.

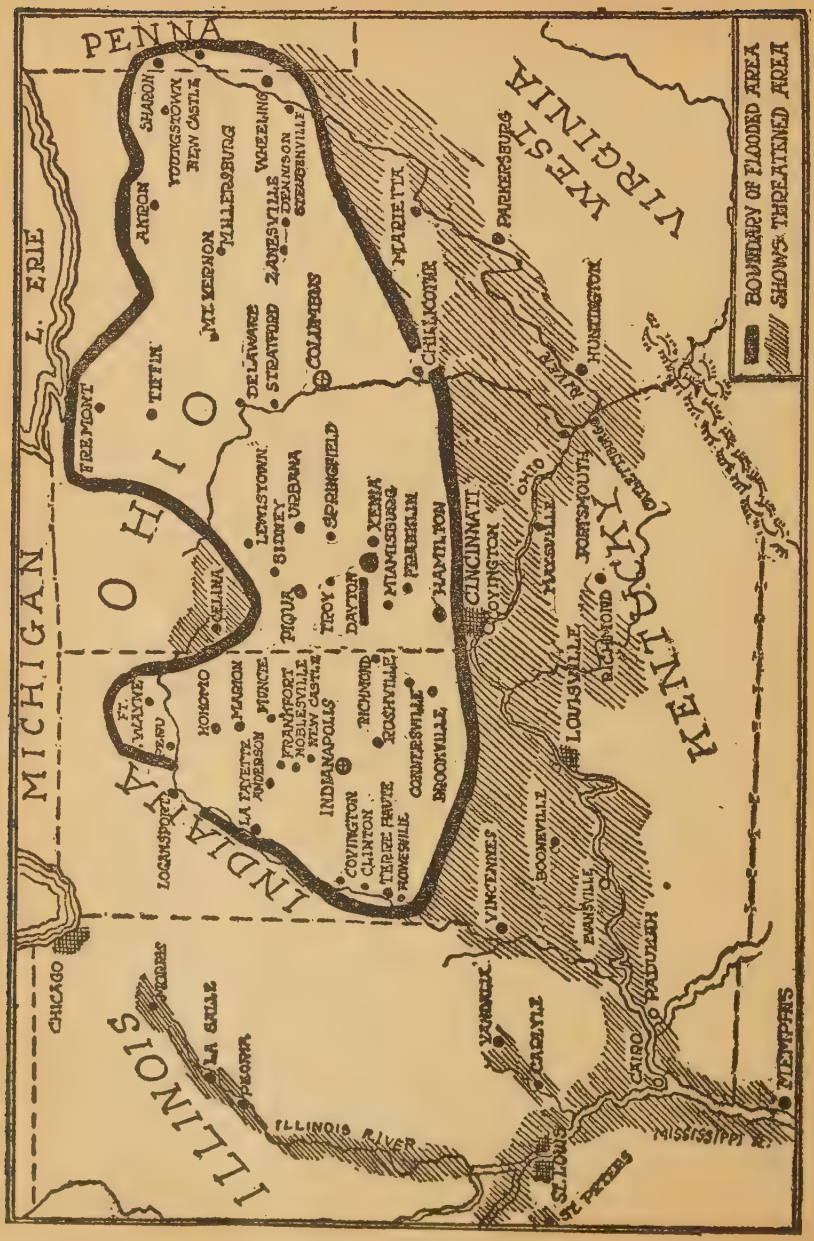
Thus if a storm, or whirl of air, is observed by one of the Philippine stations, the direction in which the

whirl is traveling is noted and the forecaster in Japan can tell what effect it will have on Japan because he knows what effect similar whirls have had.

The weather man in Honolulu gets the report of the Japanese observer, together with the Philippine report, and he knows what these conditions have done to effect his country in the past and so advises his people, passing on his report to the Pacific coast, where the same system is followed throughout the entire United States.

In this way a storm can be followed from the time of its beginning until it blows itself out.

There are exceptions to these conditions, of course. These are caused by purely local disturbances of the atmosphere which must be reckoned with to produce certain effects—which might change entirely the character of the effect of the battle of the upper air currents for supremacy, causing a severe storm or no storm at all.


BOUNDARY OF FLOODED AREA
SHOWS THREATENED AREA
PENNA
L. ERIE
MICHIGAN
OHIO
INDIANA
ILLINOIS
WEST VIRGINIA
KENTUCKY
SHARON
YOUNGSTOWN
NEW CASTLE
AKRON
MILLERSBURG
WHEELING
DENNISON
STEUBENVILLE
ZANESVILLE
MT. VERNON
MARIETTA
PARKERSBURG
TIFFIN
FREMONT
DELAWARE
STRATFORD
COLUMBUS
CHILLICOTHE
HUNTINGTON
LEWISTOWN
SIDNEY
URBANA
SPRINGFIELD
XENIA
MIAMISBURG
FRANKLIN
HAMILTON
CINCINNATI
COVINGTON
MAYSVILLE
PORTSMOUTH
RICHMOND
LOUISVILLE
CELINA
PIQUA
TROY
DAYTON
FT. WAYNE
PERU
HOMOMO
MARION
MUNCIE
FRANKFORT
NOBLESVILLE
NEW CASTLE
INDIANAPOLIS
RICHMOND
RUSHVILLE
CONNERSVILLE
BROOKVILLE
LA FAYETTE
ANDERSON
LOGANSPORT
COVINGTON
CLINTON
TERRE HAUTE
HOMESVILLE
VINCENNES
BOONEVILLE
EVANSVILLE
CHICAGO
MORRIS
LA SALLE
PEORIA
ILLINOIS RIVER
VANDALIA
CARLYLE
CAIRO
PADUKAH
MEMPHIS
MISSISSIPPI R.
ST. LOUIS
ST. PETERS

CHAPTER III

GOVERNOR COX TAKES CHARGE

OHIO EXECUTIVE QUICK TO AID SUFFERING THOUSANDS —NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SENDS TENTS AND RATIONS.

Governor James M. Cox of Ohio took charge of the flood situation within a few moments after the first great walls of water began to sweep down the valleys of the state. He was stationed in Columbus when the first news of the terrible disaster at Dayton was received. He was able at 9:10 a. m. Wednesday morning to give this heartening assurance over the long distance telephone to John A. Bell, wire chief at Dayton:

"Soldiers will be in Dayton this morning; the legislature will probably pass an appropriation of at least $250,000 this morning. I am sending a message to the legislature now. I have asked the federal government for a million rations, and have asked the governors of other states as well as the federal authorities, for coats, tents and clothing."

GOVERNOR ACTS QUICKLY.

Within the short time preceding this message Governor Cox had sent the following message to President Wilson:

"We have asked the secretary of war this morning for tents, supplies, rations and physicians. In the name of humanity, see that this is granted at the earliest possible moment. The situation in this state is very critical. We believe that 250,000 people were unsheltered last night, and the indications are that before night the Muskingum valley will suffer the fate of the Miami and Scioto valleys."

To this President Wilson had promptly replied:

"Have directed the secretary of war immediately to comply with your request and to use every agency of his department to meet the needs of the situation."

Shortly after midnight Wednesday Governor Cox sent out to the world a statement of the flood conditions in Ohio that appalled the country with its heart-rendering cry for help. As a graphic picture of the situation at that hour, portraying as it does all the terrible dread of further catastrophies that had seized the entire state, this statement by Governor Cox, written in the anguish of the hour, when hundreds of the people of his commonwealth were lying beneath the muddy waters of the floods, is far more interesting than any account written after the floods had subsided and the dead counted. It is as follows:

From the Chicago Journal

SCIENCE MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE GREAT NEED OF PREVENTING GREAT FLOODS THAT DESTROY LIFE AND PROPERTY

STATEMENT ISSUED THURSDAY MORNING.

"The exact extent of the appalling flood in Ohio is still unknown. Every hour impresses us with the uncertainty of the situation. The waters have assumed such unknown heights in many parts of the state that it will be hardly less than a miracle if villages and towns are not wiped out of existence in the southern and southwestern parts of Ohio. The storm is moving south of east.

"Please give great publicity to an appeal for help. My judgment is that there has never been such a tragedy in the history of the republic.

EVERY HOUR FILLED WITH DRASTIC EVENTS.

"Columbus is the center of all activities in behalf of the stricken cities. Every hour has apparently been filled with an accumulation of drastic circumstances.

"Piteous appeals have been made by men who were surrounded by water and confronted by the approaching conflagration in the city of Dayton. Every human energy has been exerted to give relief and yet the measure of assistance has been comparatively small.

"The day began with a storm signal from the weather bureau, saying that there would be a dangerous rise in the waters of the Muskingum river. All the towns along its source, including Zanesville and Marietta,

From Chicago Tribune

HOW GREAT IS MAN

were advised. Before noon the situation assumed a critical aspect at Zanesville and the historic Y bridge was blown up with dynamite.

"The loss of life in Zanesville is uncertain because all telephone communication ceased yesterday at noon. Marietta cannot be reached, but it is safe to assume that the same devastating results at Zanesville were carried on to Marietta.

"A flood situation developed in the Maumee and Sandusky valleys in northwestern Ohio, but the damage to life and property was nothing compared with that in the south.

SITUATION WITHOUT PARALLEL.

"In many respects the Dayton situation is absolutely without parallel. The city is unable to send to the outside world any accurate idea of the real loss. North Dayton reported a loss of 100 lives. Later precisely the same situation was reported from Riverdale. West Dayton was almost completely under water and the houses in Edgemont, a residence section, were so deep in the flood that great destruction certainly ensued there. On the high lands of South Park and East Dayton pockets were developed and people were drowned in apparent elevations where it would seem naturally impossible. The water at 5th and Brown

streets, which is twenty-five to thirty feet above the elevations in the business section, reached ten feet.

RIVER FOUR MILES WIDE.

"At this time a river, wild and turbulent, four miles wide, is sweeping through the business section of Dayton, to say nothing of the overflow in the residence sections.

"Telephone communication was established before the day was over with four points in the city. Bell, the intrepid Bell telephone operator, reported first that he had sent scouts into the different parts of the city by boat. His belief at daylight was that the loss of life had been overestimated, but by 10 o'clock it was known that easily 500 people had been drowned. We cannot resist the belief that the loss will not be less than 1,000.

"The Miami river enters Dayton directly north and south, separating North Dayton from Riverdale. It then makes a complete turn west and runs about three-fourths of a mile; then it turns directly at right angles to the south. These bends have been the undoing of the city and caused the break in the levee.

10,000 TO 12,000 PENNED UP.

"Not until to-day was it apparent that between 10,000 and 12,000 people are penned up in the business

district in buildings, hotels and the Y. M. C. A. building, making it apparent that the flood came so quickly that the business community was unable to reach the hills of the city.

"The city hall is patrolled by a number of policemen inside and it is situated so as to enable the officers to make more or less accurate estimates of the number of people in the business section.

"Fire broke out in the square bounded by St. Clair, Jefferson, 2d and 3d streets soon after noon. The blaze was noticed first in a drug store. It swept north and destroyed St. Paul's Evangelical church. The flames then shot to the south through the wholesale district, consuming two large wholesale liquor houses.

JUMP FROM ROOF TO ROOF.

"The fire is still burning. We were advised by telephone that people could be seen on the roofs of the buildings in the imperiled square and that they were jumping from one structure to another, keeping safely away from the flames. The water at this time had receded to about five feet in that part of the city.

"The appeal came over the telephone to the statehouse that unless boats were sent at once from some part of the stricken district loss of life would be tremen-

dous. It develops that the rescue from this square was complete.

"The Beckel hotel, immediately across the street, was on fire at noon, but the flames were put out. Howard, from the Home Telephone building, reported that the roof of the Beckel house was black with people, standing guard over their safety point. South of the stricken square is another wholesale section and it developed that about thirty-five women and children were in several of the buildings.

HEROIC RESCUES PERFORMED.

"About 3 o'clock the flames leaped across 3d street and attacked the square bounded by 3d, 4th, Jefferson and St. Clair streets. Lowe Brothers' paint store was destroyed and another tremendous sacrifice of human life was imminent. Fifteen men in the Home Telephone building succeeded, however, in rescuing the women and children by the aid of a block and tackle, getting them into the Beaver Power building, a fireproof structure.

"Instructions have been given from Columbus to the militia in the southern part of Dayton to give vigilant eye to the fire district and if the flames start in the direction of the Home Telephone building and the Beaver Power building to risk passage through the tur-

bulent river, which is running through the city, with boats.

"At daylight fifty boats will go into the business district of the south part. The naval militia, with 100 boats, left Toledo at midnight. The federal life saving crew, with equipment, will arrive at Dayton from Cleveland by way of Toledo at daylight, so that unless developments during the night are unseemly the whole situation ought to be measurably well in hand this forenoon.

DREADED RESERVOIR BREAKS.

"We are disquieted, however, by its report from the Lewistown reservoir that the wind has changed to the north and the water is beating against the banks on the south shore, which has been standing the pressure of the waves for ten days. If the reservoir should give way the wildest imagination could probably not bring an accurate impression of what will happen in Dayton.

"From all over the United States responses have come from individuals, corporations, trade bodies and municipalities. The appalling nature of the tragedy is understood. Railroad communication is seriously interfered with all through Ohio and it is imperative that assistance be given by telegraph remittance. The American Red Cross will have complete organizations

at Columbus, Dayton and other affected points to-morrow.

HANG TO TREES 24 HOURS.

"Serious trouble is reported from Fremont and Chillicothe. Dams have broken at both places. Troops have been asked and loss of life is reported. We are unable to get any accurate idea of the loss of life at Hamilton. Both that place and Middletown are so isolated that we fear the worst.

"In Columbus the situation has improved. The Scioto is receding. It is feared that when the waters have left the western part of the city a considerable loss of life will be revealed. Almost within sight of the capitol building three men, two women and a child have been hanging to a tree for over twenty-four hours; yet the waters are too swift to make their rescue possible.

"James M. Cox,
"Governor of Ohio."

THE BREAD LINE, AFTER THE FLOOD THE PEOPLE WERE FED IN DAYTON FROM COMMISSARY STATIONS

CHAPTER IV

STORY OF AN EYEWITNESS

PRESS CORRESPONDENT'S EXPERIENCE AT COLUMBUS—FROM SKY SCRAPER WINDOW WATCHED LEVEE MELT AWAY—FIVE STORY BUILDINGS TOPPLED INTO FLOOD.

Glenn Marston, a newspaper correspondent, was an eyewitness to the initial scenes in the great flood disaster at Columbus, O. His story of the events that filled two nights and days with horror is as follows:

Imagine yourself at the top of a perfectly safe skyscraper looking over ninety square miles of water punctured by thousands of homes—15,000 or 20,000, at least—swirling water carrying them away one by one, or sometimes literally in swarms, and you will have some conception of what we saw in Columbus Tuesday and Wednesday. Bridges crashed at our feet—a new one every hour.

With our field glasses we could see thousands of people on roofs and in windows as effectively cut off from the world as they would have been in the moon.

They were absolutely helpless. So were we. No boat could live a moment in the rushing current, which

took houses, bridges, railway tracks, telegraph poles—everything—in its overwhelming sweep.

CLING TO TREES AND HOUSETOPS.

There were 50,000 people living in this area the day before. The refugees reporting to the city hall numbered about 1,500. There were supposed to be about 5,000 on a hilltop on the west edge of the city. The rest were still clinging to housetops, trees and poles in the isolated area.

To add to the horrors of Tuesday fire broke out in half a dozen places. Nothing but the water-soaked roofs saved the district. Some of the burning houses were in water to the second story, and so the flames, while destructive enough where they started, could not spread far. The fire department was helpless. There were billions of gallons of water and not a drop which could be used. Many of the fires could not be approached closely enough to determine their exact location.

Meanwhile people were fleeing to the city hall—those lucky enough to get away. I led one poor soul, clad in a calico wrapper, with a 5-year-old boy held by one hand and a bible in the other. She knew nothing of her husband and nobody could help her.

RELIEF WORK EFFICIENT.

Considering the conditions, the efficiency of the relief

MAP SHOWING SECTIONS OF OHIO THAT WERE FLOODED

work was astounding. Every refugee was told to report to the city hall. Here the name was entered on a blue card, which also contained the home address, the names of the relatives for whom the refugees was looking, the address to which the refugee was sent, and the amount of clothing and number of meal tickets allotted. The search for missing ones was greatly simplified by the cross indexing of the names.

But still there were thousands marooned on the west side. The bridges were all out but one. The prisoners in the workhouse had to be removed. The penitentiary was six to ten feet under water. New fires were breaking out, not dangerous, as it turned out, but enough to completely upset already overwrought nerves.

WHOLE LEVEE WASHED AWAY.

As I stood in my skyscraper window, I saw the levee which protected the entire west side, suddenly melt into the river. I saw a dozen men, linemen from the telegraph companies, apparently, struggle to keep the poles up. It was hopeless. As I was looking, the poles began to drop.

One struck a group of linemen, the connecting wires felling them in all directions. One went into the water. He was not seen afterward.

The great Pennsylvania four-track right of way, part of the finest roadbed in America, melted away like

salt. The tracks on the west side of Columbus looked like a handful of tangled string thrown into a puddle.

Then came the panic. Wednesday afternoon the word started somewhere that the great fifty-foot-high

MARTIAL LAW IN FORCE IN DAYTON

storage dam five miles up the Scioto had given way. If it was so 25,000,000,000 cubic feet of water was coming. A half-crazy negro rushed into the Chittenden and shouted, "The dam's out! Everybody get on high ground!"

FIGHT TO REACH CAPITAL DOME.

People went crazy. In three seconds the lobby was cleared of its 150 occupants. Three minutes after the alarm, there were 6,000 people in the statehouse, most of them struggling for the dome. Of all places!

But the dam had not gone out. It was hours before things were back to the normal abnormality of relieving the refugees and rescuing those imprisoned. The panic had even reached the boatmen who had just begun to venture among the wrecked houses.

The city was without trains, without telegraph, without telephone service, without lights or street cars and without water. The city light plant would leave the streets in darkness for weeks. The first to recover from the disaster was the Railway and Light company. It had lights burning again in fifteen minutes, though all users were requested to economize in using electricity. Twenty cars were running two hours later.

Those who could afford mineral waters could drink in safety. Those who could not had to go thirsty or take chances of infection from any kind of disease. There were three or four elevators working, none in the hotels.

DEATHS MAY REACH 1,000.

When I left Columbus Thursday the loss of life was estimated between 500 and 1,000. Half the houses on

the west side had toppled over or been carried away completely. Nearly all of these contained people who tried to swim to other houses.

Many could not swim, and many who could swim were swept under by the current. One could only get an idea of the strength of that raging flood when the great bridges, weighing hundreds of thousands of pounds, floated down stream hundreds of feet before sinking out of sight. Imagine trying to swim! Imagine trying to row a park skiff!

It was only Thursday that the boats began to pick up bodies. Boats which had carried these same people on pleasure jaunts last summer had turned themselves into funeral craft. A head which had lain on soft cushions and looked up into some loved one's face, now lay stark and staring, uncushioned, bound for the undertaker. A ghastly work for picnic boats!

DESPERATE EFFORTS TO FIGHT FIRE.

There was an attempt made to fight one fire. The firemen crossed the Broad street bridge, carrying their hose with them; then they had to thread their way along the eighteen-inch core wall of the levee, which had not gone out at this point. By stringing two blocks of hose they were able to reach the fire.

Every man who crossed that bridge took his life in

his hands. Every man who stepped on that core wall knew that his weight might be enough to make it give way and send him and his companions to eternity.

Ten feet from the end of the bridge a group of five-story buildings had toppled over into the current a half hour before. After an hour's weary work the hose was stretched and a stream of water came from the nozzle. It lasted a few seconds and then died to nothing. That was the moment when the water had put out the last fire in the boiler room of the water works.

RAILROADS TIED UP.

Of course the railroads were in a terrible state. At the Union station there were dozens of through trains which could neither go forward nor backward. The passengers all united in praising the companies for the treatment they received. Every passenger was fed and all berths in every Pullman car were made up each night. For those who could not sleep in the cars, the railroads provided other quarters without expense to the passengers.

The train I took was the first one to Chicago. We got in 71½ hours late. In order to get this train, we had to be transferred from the city to the prairie far outside of the city. It was a drive of several miles. There, out in the open, lay a train. The locomotive had

to run backward for some time, and meanwhile the passengers had to wrap up in overcoats and stamp around to keep warm, for there was no steam, and the thermometer was hovering around the freezing point.

LAST BRIDGE GOES DOWN.

We had, in order to get to this train, which was on the west side of the river, to cross a bridge at Fifth avenue, the only bridge left standing by which most of the west side could be reached. As we pulled out there was a constant stream of wagons going across, carrying food and clothing to the sufferers. But when I reached Toledo, I read that this bridge, the last link between the sufferers and the safe part of the city, had gone out. We were lucky to get away when we did, and luckier still that the bridge did not go down when we were on it.

All morning, relief wagons and automobiles had been rushed across at top speed. The bridge began to show weakness then, and soldiers were stationed at each end. They cut down all vehicles to a walking pace and allowed only two at a time to cross. Apparently even this light load was sufficient to jar the supports of the bridge until it tired of its work and sunk to rest with its companions in the bed of the river.

The district that was most damaged was called the "old river bed," because of a belief that the river once

flowed over a mile west of where the channel now is. This area had thirty to forty feet of water over it in some places. Two-story houses floated down as if they were chips.

West Broad street, the main east and west thoroughfare, was a scene of heart-rending desolation. Far out stood a half submerged street car which was abandoned by its crew when the levee broke. In places the street was completely filled with floating houses and wreckage.

I have seen fires, floods and avalanches before, but nothing to compare with this. There is nothing in one's imagination to compare to such a disaster. One must go through it. There was a hotel full of people without any conveniences whatever—back to the primitive—and yet there was never a murmur of discontent—the sights and sounds across the river so dwarfed our petty inconveniences that we forgot them—considered ourselves lucky to be alive. We at least had a roof and good food, even though there was five feet of water in the basement.

CHAPTER V

NIGHTS OF HORROR AT PERU, IND.

THOUSANDS MAROONED ON TWO SMALL ISLANDS—BRAVE DEEDS OF RESCUERS—BOATMAN SHOT FOR CHARGING TO RESCUE.

Graphic description of the horrors of the flood that swept residents of Peru, Ind., to their death and made thousands homeless was given by Gilbert Kessler, one of the heroes of the calamity. Weary, tired eyed and almost unnerved from the loss of sleep and the sights he had witnessed, young Kessler, a muscular product of a northern Indiana farm, staggered from a relief train from the stricken city at Plymouth, Ind. There he recounted the terrors of the inky nights when the Wabash river drowned the piercing cries of the frantic and the groans of the perishing. To board the relief train Kessler had paddled three miles in a boat through the protruding treetops and debris that momentarily threatened to wreck him.

WOMEN LEAP TO DEATH.

"It was too awful ever to forget," said Kessler with a shudder. "It was cold and damp and misty, and the

sight of that black water rushing on pitilessly just seemed to take the heart out of most of us, especially the women.

SHADED PORTIONS OF MAP INDICATE FLOODED DISTRICTS IN INDIANA AND OHIO

"Night and day you could hear the shrieks of the women. And the conduct of some of them! I was piloting one of the rescue boats to our landing, the

court house, and the boat was pretty well filled. One of our passengers was a woman.

"We were moving rather shakily through one of the main streets when all of a sudden I saw this woman rise from her seat and begin to wail: 'Oh, what is the use! We'll all be drowned anyway,' and she plunged from her seat into the torrent.

"The next moment I found myself in the water. I saw a little arm stick up for a moment. I made a grab for it, but it went down. There was no chance to swim in that Niagara. I struck the stern of our rowboat and seized it with one hand. Then I gradually drew myself aboard.

"I picked up one of our oarsmen a little later. He was still alive.

RESCUE BOATS CAPSIZED.

"But the circumstances considered, you could scarcely blame the woman. A great many of them, though, suffered with a stoicism that had to be admired.

"Then again, I had a similar occurrence. We were bringing another boatload to the courthouse when a woman lunged out despairingly and all of us went over. Again it was a fight and I managed to save myself. Four times, altogether, I was thrown out into

that muddy stream and I am still wondering how I managed to escape.

"The current swept around street corners with tremendous force and only the most experienced oarsmen could propel those craft with any degree of safety. One of the life savers from Michigan City took too wide a turn and they all landed in the tree tops.

"There were as many lives lost in the capsizing of boats as in the flood itself, but the boats were not to blame, because it required great experience to handle a boat in that current. We had 200 boats, but there was so much loss of life that finally the women refused absolutely to enter the boats. They preferred to stick to roofs and second floors."

HOW THE FLOOD BROKE LOOSE.

Kessler gave a description of the flood on the first night.

"It was 7:30 p. m. when the water burst upon the city," he said. A temporary dam had been constructed by the lighting company and because of the threatened condition of the Wabash plans were made to break a hole in the dam and let the water out gradually. Instead the dam gave out and the water came with a roar.

"Families had just finished supper when the fire

whistle sounded. Simultaneously all lights went out. People ran out to see what had happened and soon cries of anguish were heard. In the rain and darkness you could not see the water until it was almost upon you. I felt it swishing about my ankles and ran for my girl cousin. When I got to her house I was waist deep in water. Cries, shrieks and the reports of revolvers rent the air. Swifter, swifter ran the water. My cousin and I were almost swept off our feet. Above the din I could hear: 'To the courthouse! To the courthouse!' Half swimming, half floundering, we reached there.

"We found thousands of men, women and children. Families were separated. Women were crying for their children, men for their wives and wives for their husbands.

WHOLE MENAGERIE DROWNED.

"Then came the roaring of lions and the neighing of horses. We realized in a moment that the Wallace circus, which has winter quarters at Peru, had been engulfed.

"The lions and other animals were in cages and died in the trap, roaring until the water swallowed them.

"But not so the elephants. These huge beasts tore and lashed their stakes until some of them got away. Several boats saw them trudging and swimming, roar-

ing and lashing their trumpets in the stream. That was the last we saw of them.

"While the work of rescue was going on a great glare lit the sky. We saw that the Miami County Lumber company was ablaze. The reflection in the sky and on the water gave new terror to the refugees in the courthouse, but it aided the relief parties in their work.

"The next day I saw bodies in the water. One sight wrung by heart. I saw a couple go floating by— a husband and his wife—locked in each other's arms. For fear they might be separated they had bound themselves together with cord.

"Another time a woman in our boat was carrying her baby when the boat was brushed through the tree tops and the branches tore the baby from her arms. It disappeared in the water."

Charles H. Thatcher of 3260 Groveland avenue, Chicago, his wife, Mrs. Louise Thatcher and Mrs. Charles Hoover were among refugees from Peru.

MAROONED IN HOME.

"We were marooned on the second floor of our house," said Thatcher. "When we started to flee from the city Tuesday we could only get two blocks from the house. The rising water drove us back, and my wife and Mrs. Hoover were compelled to go to the second

floor, with all of the provisions we could find in the house. These were few and quickly gave out. We had no water.

"Several boatmen passed our house, but demanded as high as $100 to take each of us away. One of them came close to our window and said that he would rescue us for $25 apiece. I told him I would pay him, but he said he could only take two of us. My wife and I refused to leave without Mrs. Hoover and my wife refused to go unless I went. The boatman rowed away and went to another house across the way, where he evidently extended the same offer.

BOATMAN SHOT.

"As he rowed away there was a report of a revolver and the boatman toppled forward in his boat, dead. All day the boat with the dead body was swept in and out among the houses near us, but it never came close enough for us to get hold of it.

"We saw the Broadway bridge go out and the wreckage rushed down with the flood against the interurban bridge, a concrete structure. The wreckage was hurled with such force against the concrete pier that it snapped like a match and was lost to view in the swirl of water."

At no time were the newspaper correspondents in

and near Peru able to adequately describe the horrors of the situation. Following a night of awful suffering, pestilence broke out among the 2,000 refugees in the courthouse square. Small-pox, diphtheria, mumps, measles and scarlet fever were reported. A quarantine was established. Leo Freuh a newspaper correspondent was given an opportunity to leave the plague-stricken district before the quarantine was formally established, but he chose to remain there as a volunteer nurse and also to continue informing the outside world of the disaster.

SNOWSTORM ADDS TERRORS.

The night was one of terrible suffering and anguish.

Worn out by the hours of suffering, seven persons gave up their battle with death in the courthouse and the number of unfortunates who succumbed in the street outside can only be a matter of conjecture. Three of the sufferers died the same hour. One victim was a mother, who had a few minutes before given birth to a child. One other baby was born during the night.

A blinding snowstorm sent terror to the hearts of sufferers. Two thousand people in the courthouse, made ill by the filth in the building, strove for permission to get into the streets. Those on the single square not yet

submerged, in their turn prayed for shelter from the blinding storm.

WAILS IN THE NIGHT.

All through the night from the steps of the courthouse could be heard the wails of the people in the street. And as the moans and shrieks of the sufferers floated across the muddy waters groans from those within the temporary refuge joined.

A man and woman were seen floating down the river dead, hands closely clasped. C. D. Hollowell was rescued by Charles Knight and Dr. Hoff, two Peru men, after thrilling attempts. Hallowell had sent off his wife and children in a boat in which there was no room for him. Driven from his home, he finally climbed to the top of a tree on the bank of the river. Here he was seen by the two men, who rowed up the river time after time and floated down. They asked how much longer he could hang on. Finally, half frozen with cold, he shouted that he could not hold but fifteen minutes. The last time the two men floated down he fell fainting into the boat.

At a meeting at the courthouse, in which the 2,000 sufferers took an active part, the following committee was chosen to take permanent charge of the rescue:

Lieutenant-Governor O'Neil, Frank D. Butler, R.

A. Edwards, president of the leading Peru bank, and the Rev. Dr. Bailey.

SUFFERERS ORGANIZE A GOVERNMENT.

A law and order league was organized with Mayor Kreutzer at the head. Others on the staff were Sheriff Hostetter and Prosecuting Attorney Phelps.

The physicians organized and to the best of their ability cared for the sanitation. The law and order league placed an embargo upon the sale of liquor. This was unnecessary in most cases, as the saloon men closed.

John Mueller and his wife were rescued clinging to the chimney of their house. A man by the name of Youngblood was rescued after the water had reached the eaves. The "island" on which the people were huddled was a piece of territory three blocks wide. It included one block east of the courthouse and four blocks west. In all other parts of town the water was up to the second story of the houses.

Dr. W. A. Huff, a dentist, started for South Peru with Theodore Knight on Tuesday night. The boat capsized in a heavy swirl. Huff saved himself by grasping the limbs of a tree. He remained in the tree all night. He died from exposure. Knight disappeared.

Charles and Theodore Knight, brothers, were credited with rescuing 300 persons.

At 272 First street a woman was rescued from a tree at 8 o'clock Tuesday evening. For two hours she had held her baby in one arm and preserved her balance on the tree limb with the other.

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S STORY.

A newspaper photographer dared the flood's dangers and after a perilous trip in a small boat reached Peru on Wednesday. His story was as follows:

"All of the survivors were on two islands. The first we reached was at the corner of 5th and West Smith streets. There were forty homes there and 1,300 people had been imprisoned there since the flood began.

FIFTY PERSONS IN ONE HOUSE.

"The first thing I saw was a bread line with 300 standing in it. Men rowing boats over from the interurban line had brought bread and coffee, and it was being served to the starving people. That was after 6 o'clock in the evening, and it was getting dark. We decided to stay there all night. There were fifty people in the house where we stayed. We slept on the floor without any covering over us, and it was pretty cold. There was not an inch of extra floor space. Few of the people went to sleep at all. They sat up and talked about the missing. That was the terrible part of it—there wasn't a

soul in the house but had a wife or child or brother or father or mother missing. It was heartbreaking to hear them.

"Seven people died on our island that night. Cold, exposure, starvation and grief did the work. One woman had lost her baby—she screamed all night. Every one was asking questions of every one else—always the same question. 'Have you seen my little girl?' or 'Have you seen my brother anywhere?'

FAMILY IN TREE TOPS SAVED.

"I heard some strange stories that night as I lay there on the floor. They told of a man who clung to a roof with his wife and child. The flood wrecked the house and all three were swept away, the man holding to both the woman and child. They were washed into the branches of a tree, which held them up. Some men in a boat came and took the wife and the baby. They rowed to the island and then went back for the man. All three were saved. They were there on the island. Every one seemed to have experienced adventures of that kind.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVENTURE.

"They told a strange experience of the chief of police of South Bend, who, with a sheriff, was distributing supplies in a motor boat. They started for the western bank

and the motor went dead. As they drifted they bumped into a skiff in which two young fellows sat crying. They had lost their entire family and didn't care to live. When the motor struck them the skiff was smashed and the young fellows leaped aboard the launch. Then they caught hold of telegraph poles and stopped themselves, worked their way back to a barbed wire fence and got the engine started again.

WHIPPED MAN WHO CHARGED TO SAVE.

"One man on the island was 'in jail,' He had seized a boat and was charging people for taking them out of their garrets to the islands. If they didn't respond to his prices he would row away and leave them. As he landed one family the people on the island got wind of it. They took away the young man's boat, along with $90 he had made that day. Then they whipped him and locked him up."

TERRIFIED BY ROARS OF LIONS.

"They told me about the Wallace circus down in the flats, the first place where the flood struck. All the animals of the Wallace-Hagenbeck show were there and through the first night the people heard shot after shot. It was supposed the keepers were killing the animals as the flood rose. The screams of panthers and lions and

tigers arose over the flood and people nearly went mad with terror, thinking that the animals had been freed and would be upon them.

"We got up at 4 o'clock in the morning and rowed over to the other island, which was the courthouse. In that building there were 3,000 persons marooned, with no light and no heat and not much food.

SEVEN BIRTHS AT COURTHOUSE.

"There had been seven births in the courthouse the night before. We rowed over to the Lake Erie & Western tracks where relief cars were being sent in from South Bend. There we worked all the morning loading rafts and boats with food, milk and water.

"Then I started back. We passed tiny knolls on which there were horses and farm animals. I saw one horse standing alone in a precarious position. A little farther on there was a hummock about twenty-five feet wide. There were thirty or forty horses there, all fighting and kicking to maintain their positions."

CHAPTER VI

NATION CALLED TO ACT

PEOPLE DEMAND WIRELESS SYSTEM FOR INLAND CITIES—PRESIDENT TAKES UP PROBLEM—GREAT CORPORATIONS OPPOSE GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP EVEN WHEN LIFE IS TO BE SAVED.

Ten years after the practical value of wireless had been demonstrated the United States found itself in its greatest disaster still depending upon wires strung on poles, exposed to winds and weather and unreliable in any emergency. The cry for a modern system of communication followed the flood immediately.

The people of the middle west could hardly conceive the anxiety which was felt in official and other circles in Washington arising out of inability to ascertain the exact facts in reference to conditions in the areas devastated by storm and floods.

With the wires down and the situation such that their prompt repair was impossible, the administration was impressed with the necessity of taking measures for preserving communication under all circumstances.

The people are entitled to government protection.

Communication is vital not only for men and women who are frantic because they could not hear from their relatives and friends in the danger zone, but to the business interests which must have information about their affairs.

The hideous inadequacy of the old system of communication by wires strung on telegraph poles was demonstrated on occasions in the past, but it remained for the experience of the week of March 24, 1913, to stir the government to action.

It is to wireless telegraphy that officials of the administration turned as the solution of this important problem. With properly erected stations in comparatively close proximity to each other communication could be maintained under practically all conditions.

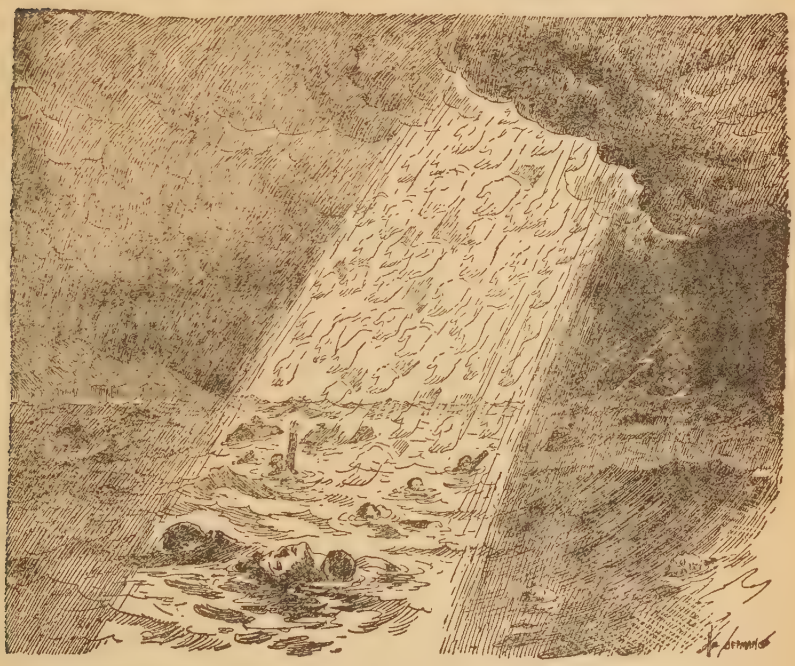
Were such stations in existence the government would have had immediate and reliable information, and it might not have been necessary to send the secretary of war to the distressed area for the purpose of ascertaining the facts and reporting them to the president.

It became the purpose of the president and his cabinet to consider in connection with the entire storm and flood question the steps that should be taken to assure the maintenance of communication.

The control of telegraphs in the United States is vested by law in the postmaster general. The navy department, the department of commerce, and the war

department were all concerned about questions relating to radio communication.

It was realized that the commercial telegraph and wireless companies would bitterly oppose the erection of government wireless stations for commercial use,



From the Chicago Examiner

MILLIONS OF HELPING HANDS

and it was claimed by those who object to government extension of this means of communication that to install it for emergency purposes only would involve a heavy expense. Thus the great corporations stood in

the way of progress even when it means the protection of life.

As an answer to these arguments, administration officials and army and navy officers called attention to the fact that it is worth while for the government to spend money to be prepared for an emergency such as then existed, just as the army and navy are maintained in preparation for war.

In other words, a chain of stations as an insurance for the benefit of those in distress, as well as for the business interests.

Postmaster General Burleson said the suggestion in reference to the election of wireless stations throughout the country is worthy of careful consideration. The postmaster general was impressed with the inadequacy of the present telegraph system and said that far better results to the people could be obtained if it were taken over by the government.

It was expected he would recommend government acquisition of all existing telegraph systems, including wireless, during his administration of the postoffice department.

When the whole country was engaged in the work of saving life and planning to prevent recurrence of such calamities, the people of the United States were treated to the spectacle of corporation lobbyists striving

Hauling Relief Supplies Under Difficulties.

Big Four Bridge at Lafayette, Indiana.

Fire and Flood.

Rescuers at Dayton.

Carrying Out the Dead.

Wreck in Dayton Street.

Little City Submerged, and Cut Off from the World.

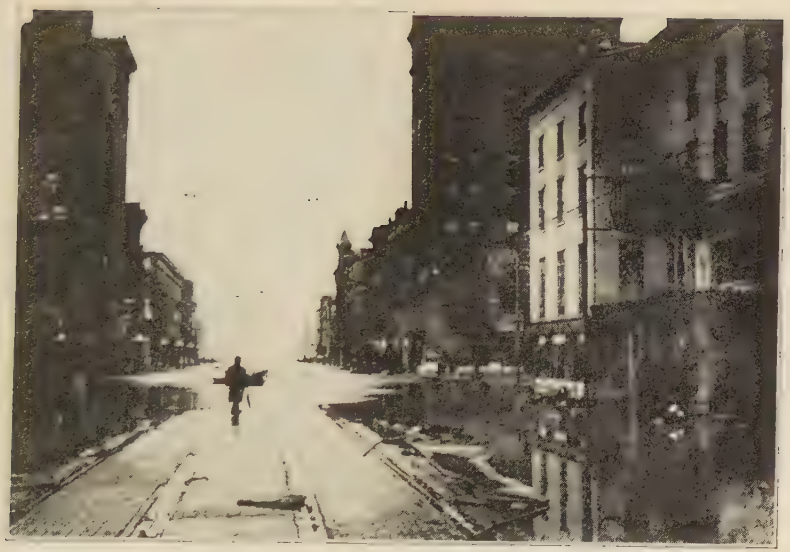
West Indianapolis, Indiana.

Street Scene in Dayton as Flood Recedes.

Watching Rescue Work.

Canoeing on Dayton Streets

Many Men Paralyzed After Being in Water for Many Hours



Main Street Washed Clean by the Flood.

Sailing Down the Street at Dayton.

Relief Forces at Work.

Fire Engine Fight in Midst of Flood.

U. S. Naval Boat on Inland Sea.

View of Flood at Dayton, Ohio.

Husband and Wife Clearing Wreck of Their Home at Dayton

Removing Dead from Omaha Ruins.

Pennsylvania Station at Logansport, Indiana.

Glimpse of Inland Sea in Indiana and Ohio.

Fire Engine at Work After the Flood.

Raging Torrent Which Swept Through Dayton.

Wrecks Left by Ohio Floods.

Wrecks Piled in Front of Residences at Dayton.

to prevent the congress from working on the problem. It was demonstrated that the people have no hope of relief from private capital. Wireless telegraph stations did not then promise profit, but the old wire lines did make a profit, hence the powerful money influences were turned against the people. Many asked themselves "How long and how much must we stand before we learn to handle our own problems in a big way." From all sides came the suggestion that the work of establishing wireless communication between all centers and the job of empounding the flood waters be taken up in a big way as the Panama Canal was built by the government.

Rabbi T. Schanfarber of the K. A. M. Temple, Chicago, spoke for national conservation to protect life. He said:

"The country is willing and anxious to spend money for the maintenance of an army and navy, yet it is almost impossible to gain an appropriation for the building of dykes and levees.

"If part of these millions were spent in aiding to tame nature a repetition of the Indiana and Ohio disaster could be avoided in the future. It is time that the municipal, state and federal governments took some action toward protecting the lives and property of the citizens."

FLOOD EDITION

THE PIQUA DAILY CALL

Vol. 29 PIQUA, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1913. No. 134

Calamity Strikes Piqua; Our City Bowed in Grief

Appalling Loss of Human Life, and Great Destruction of Property.

Thousands Are Homeless

City Under Martial Law---Communications Cut Off with Outside World---Relief Station Established at the Y. M. C. A.

Piqua is today a stricken city; a city bowed down, broken with grief. We have been visited by the greatest calamity in our history. The loss of life that has been suffered from the flood cannot be estimated now.

It is sufficient now to tell that relief measures are being taken. The Business Men's Association, the Y. M. C. A. and citizens generally are co-operating with the city and military authorities to bring order out of chaos to rescue those confined in houses still standing in the flooded sections to house and feed the homeless.

The city is practically under martial law. Company C. and Company A, of Covington are here and patrolling the city under the the direction of the city authorities.

Last night, we regret to say, there was a beginning of looting and plundering in the south part of the city.

Rigorous measures will be taken by the military and the police to repress and prevent such in the future.

Piqua still is cut off from communication from the outside world. All the telegraph and telephone wires are down. Bridges and tracks are down on both railroads and no trains are running.

The only outside communication possible has been by using a Pennsylvania freight engine to Bradfood from which point it has been possible to use the telegraph.

All the traction lines still are crippled and unable to run their cars in or out of the city. How soon it may be possible to re-open these lines of communication it is impossible to say.

While greatly crippled the local telephone service has been maintained by both exchanges. The operators have done heroic work day and night ever since the first danger began to threaten.

No mail has been received or sent out of Piqua since Monday. Local deliveries, of course, are impossible.

North and south the C. H. & D. R. R. is crippled. From Sidney to Dayton the washout is practically complete.

The Pennsylvania R. R. bridge was washed out at the east end, and there is no communication across the river. It is understood that much track has been washed out. A line is open to Bradford and westward.

The Y. M. C. A., the Spring street, Favorite Hill Schools, the Presbyterian, Christian, Church of Christ, Grace M. E., St. Marys school hall, and countless homes have been opened freely to the flood sufferers. The Y. M. C. A. has been the center of the relief administration and from which all directions have been issued and to which the sufferers have come.

Provisions can and are being brought from Fletcher and other places east to the sufferers who have reached the hills on the east of the river.

This morning Mayor Kiser placed the fire department at work freeing the most necessary places from water. The electric light plant was first pumped out. Last night the city was in darkness except for gas, oil lamps, and candles. The hospital was found needing little attention.

The damage to property is beyond calculation. Over 200 houses at least have been washed away and destroyed. Shawnee is practically wiped out.

Mch. 27/13 We are all right John Dabis

The above is a fac simile of the first page of the Piqua Daily Call's four page, handbill size, "flood edition."

The flood which devastated the eastern section of Piqua flooded the newspaper offices. The Call sought to serve its readers with a four page edition, 8x15 inches.

CHAPTER VII

PENETRATING FLOOD DISTRICT

STORY OF FIRST RELIEF PARTY BY EXPERIENCED NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER—HEROISM OF TWO SAILORS—GLIMPSE OF OHIO SITUATION.

Clyde T. Brown, a newspaper photographer who has been in the midst of earthquakes, the Mount Pelee disaster, strikes, fires and riots for twelve years, was one of the first journalists to penetrate the Ohio flood district. As a member of a relief expedition he traveled for eighteen hours on a train that ran without orders over many divisions.

Mr. Brown described the perilous trip of the relief train and his subsequent experiences as follows:

"We made the trip in eighteen hours, arriving at Dayton after considerable difficulty, shortly after noon Thursday. We proceeded on the train that left Toledo to West Liberty. This part of the journey was made in a roundabout way. At this point we came up to a washed out bridge.

RELAYED BY FARMERS' WAGONS.

"A hundred or more farmers with teams stood ready. The train was carrying a stock of medicines,

clothing and food, besides doctors, nurses, naval cadets, telegraph operators and newspaper men. The provisions were taken from the train and loaded into the farmers' wagons. There was a haul of three and a half miles to get around the washout to the other side, where another train waited. We walked this distance through mud, water and snow.

"In the second train we went to Xenia, thence to Springfield and finally to Dayton. All along we encountered flooded conditions and at times the train made barely eight miles an hour.

"At Dayton we found a frantic, despairing, half-starved lot of people. They were huddled together wherever high spots in the city afforded a place of refuge. The flood had receded somewhat, but the streets still were raging torrents in many parts of the city and the water marks on the buildings showed that the flood at some points had been twelve feet deep.

"The militia already had established a wall about the city and sightseers were barred absolutely. All along the route of our train persons attempted to get aboard to go to Dayton and it was with difficulty that they were kept off the coaches. At Springfield, for instance, a gang of ruffians attempted to get onto the train by force and there was a struggle before they were repulsed.

"Every one in Dayton had on high rubber boots.

Travel was almost impossible except by boats. Everywhere the work of rescue was being carried on. Every man that was able was aiding in the work.

From the Chicago Examiner

WHAT CAN MAN DO?

"In many of the large buildings there were still hundreds of men and women marooned and these were being taken from their places of refuge as quickly as

possible. Throughout the residence sections of the city people were imprisoned in their second stories and on the house tops. Members of the rescue party were taking food to these people in boats, making the rounds of the flooded homes.

"The early horror of the catastrophe seemed to have passed somewhat and the people had become slightly hardened to the situation. They were in a nerve shattered condition, however, and they showed the effects of sleeplessness and the overtaxing of mind and body.

"New panic broke out when it was reported Thursday afternoon that the Lewiston reservoir had broken and another flood was on the way. This report proved to be untrue.

"There were stories of fearful tragedies mingled with tales of remarkable heroism to be gained from those who had fought through the trying hours to save their fellow men.

"The number of deaths remained a mystery. About eighty bodies had been recovered when I left Dayton Thursday night. They had been placed in temporary morgues. Many of the deaths were the result of suicide among persons who became frantic as they watched the death waters creep upon them.

SAILORS SAVE 150, THEN PERISH.

"There was a remarkable story of heroism of two sailor lads who happened to be in Dayton when the flood broke. They gave up their lives in the work of rescue. Their identity was buried with them in the swirling waters.

"The two sailors were in the residence section of West Dayton when the torrent reached there. Able at the oars, they quickly obtained a boat. I was told that they rescued at least 150 men, women and children from marooned residences, carrying load after load to higher land.

"The waters became higher and more turbulent as they proceeded with their work. They started out upon another trip of rescue. They encountered the rapid current. The boat was capsized within sight of many of those they had saved. It was impossible to swim in the raging water and the two heroes went down, their bodies to be carried away probably never to be found.

"The heroes whose deeds were recounted to me were too numerous to list. Men struggled in the work of rescue until their muscles gave out and their strength failed. Large numbers of boats were at hand. They had been sent from all neighboring towns and localities.

"Immediate rescue of those marooned in the large

buildings in the business section of the city was impossible because of the swiftness of the current and this was not attempted until Thursday, when the waters had begun to recede considerably.

METHOD OF RESCUE UNIQUE.

"The method of rescue was unique. The current in most of the streets made it unsafe to attempt to row to the buildings. Ropes and cables were hurled into windows and made fast. In many of the buildings elevator cables were cut and brought into use. The boatmen used these ropes and cables to propel their boats, making progress hand over hand.

"Hunger was the chief cause of suffering among those who had been marooned in the office buildings, but plenty of food was at hand once the work of rescue became possible.

"Churches, schools and all buildings on higher ground were turned into dormitories. Many persons also were taken out of Dayton to near by localities. Every farmer who could drive to Dayton was there ready to return to his home with as many of the flood victims as he could afford to care for and house.

"There were many cases of individual heroism. A barber, Edward Price, thinking that his wife and child were safe in their home in Edgemont, when the flood

first broke went into the heart of Dayton to rescue his parents and brothers and sisters. He procured a boat and after a difficult and perilous trip he found the entire family on the roof of their home, the water already lapping the second story. Alone he carried the members of the family to safety. In the meantime the roaring waters had spread throughout all parts of the city and Edgemont was submerged. When I left Dayton he had not found his wife and child, for whom he had been searching night and day.

KILLS WIFE AND HIMSELF.

"There were many suicides. One particularly tragic incident occurred in a house in Jefferson street. A man and wife stood at a second story window of their home Tuesday throughout the afternoon calling frantically for help. The street before the house had become a torrent and no one dared brave the current to get to the house in a boat. The water continued to crawl toward the two at the window. 'If the water reaches us I shall kill my wife and end my own life!' The man shouted. He brandished a revolver. Darkness fell. Two shots were heard to ring out. In the morning the two figures were not at the window.

"Several men who were aiding in the rescue work Thursday met death when a carload of carbide exploded near the railroad station.

"Others, in walking about the flooded streets after the waters had receded somewhat, suddenly disappeared from view. The cause of this, it was learned, was that the force of the waters in the sewers had blown off the covers of many manholes and men were walking into them unawares.

DEAD ANIMALS LITTER STREETS.

"Hundreds of horses and dogs were lying dead in the street from which the water had backed off by Thursday afternoon. Several hundred residences were carried away by the flood, but most of the wreckage had been carried downstream so that very little of the destruction in this respect was visible.

"The actual damage done by the several fires that burned Thursday in the business section of the city could not be established, because it was impossible to get near enough to see. The fire was said to have started in a drug store. As far as I could learn no one was burned to death. A large number of persons, including women and girls, were rescued from one of the burning buildings.

"When I left Dayton Thursday night the water had left many of the streets and it was not more than four feet at any point, I should judge. None of the large buildings had been wrecked. Stocks were ruined,

however, and the loss of residences was undoubtedly large.

"There was little attempt at looting. The militia force, which had the city under perfect control in conjunction with the police, was on a strict watch for any such attempt.

"The actual damage to bridges could not be ascertained easily. The Great Miami and its tributaries had so broken their courses that through the middle of the city there was one great lake. The height was above the tops of the bridges and it was not known whether the structures had been washed away.

POOL ALL FOOD SUPPLIES.

"The city, as a whole, presented a gloomy aspect. Its industry had ceased. Everything had been turned into a general stock or fund. Where unspoiled stock was found in groceries or other stores it was turned over to the relief committee and used in feeding the refugees. Where the water has fallen back there has been left a heavy coating of mud over the houses and pavements.

"There is plenty of food, but there was concern in another direction. There was a scarcity of fuel and there had been suffering because of the cold that set in, following the first day of the flood. The rain

turned to snow and sleet and added to the suffering. The nights were without light. The nerves of the citizens had been so wrought up that the people were in constant dread of further disaster. The victims were in crowded quarters, although relief was on the way."

It proved to be as difficult to get out of Dayton and away from the flooded district as it was to get into the city.

RETURN TRIP IS TEDIOUS.

Mr. Brown hastening to return to Chicago to bring with him a photographic story of the great tragic disaster, left Dayton Thursday night. He went by railroad to Springfield, thence by automobile through muddy roads to Xenia. Further progress appeared impossible.

"At Xenia I met the son of a railroad official," he said. "There were no trains for the north. It was impossible to go south, toward Cincinnati. The man I met was anxious to get details of the horror at Dayton and I told him what I had seen. I then impressed upon him the necessity of getting out of the district as early as possible and he aided me to get an engine and caboose to carry me and several others.

CHAPTER VIII.

STRANGE STORIES OF DEATH

COLLEGE BOYS AND GIRLS SEE DESTRUCTION OF HOMES—YOUTHFUL STUDENTS RISK LIVES TO SAVE—THREE GIRLS TELL OF FLOOD EXPERIENCE.

Strange stories of a death which hurled itself down, swift and sure, from the hovering rain clouds upon a helpless and bewildered people were told by refugees from the stricken sections of Ohio and Indiana.

A dozen counties became an inland sea. From these water-washed wastes a few fortunate travelers emerged to bring to the outside world appalling stories of death, desolation and ruin.

Their stories of the havoc of the deluge eclipse the wildest fancies. Hundreds escaped from the first onrush of the waters only to meet a slower and more miserable death from starvation and exposure. Exiled from the rest of the world, the question of how to reach these people was for days without an answer.

Night came down, freezing cold, over a tract of desolation.

Without rations, and in some places without even shelter, unfortunates could only steel themselves to hold

out until the waters receded and rescuers and relief expeditions reached them.

COLLEGE GIRLS TELL OF FLOOD.

Four college girls from the Ohio Wesleyan university at Delaware, Ohio, where there are fifty known dead, give a stirring picture of the heroism of rescuers and the desolate plight of victims.

One man, escaping from the devastated region of Ohio, told of a modern Paul Revere, who risked his life in a midnight ride to arouse the inhabitants of the valley. He told the countryside the floods were coming and hundreds escaped to the hills.

An Erie train, with hundreds aboard was three days overdue, and from it no word could be learned. The fate of the passengers was unknown, and all efforts to reach the train by wire failed.

A resident of Bowling Green, Ohio, who fled from the flooded district told of the death, loss and suffering in that region.

The four plucky college girls who escaped from the doomed city of Delaware, Ohio, where they were attending school were:

Miss Mabel Lees, 325 South Elmwood avenue, Oak Park.

A STRANGE BOAT LOAD

Miss Esther Quayle, 288 North Howard avenue, Oak Park.

Miss Edith Quayle, 233 North Howard avenue, Oak Park.

Miss Florence Whyman, Chicago.

They arrived by the way of Toledo. They reached

Toledo after a perilous trip over the Hocking Valley, where the train ran with water from the raging Maumee river rushing over the car axles.

MAROONED IN DORMITORY.

For two days previous they were marooned in a school dormitory with 200 other girls who subsisted entirely upon canned tomatoes. Thirty-five were dead in the city and 4,000 homeless and cut off from relief when they left Delaware. Dispatches from the city placed the number of the lost at 50.

Delaware is a city of 10,000. It is twenty miles north of Columbus, sixty miles from Dayton and in the heart of the flood-stricken district. The Olentangy river, which divides the city in half, was its destruction. The eastern section was submerged and cut off from outside aid.

Dr. George W. Hyatt nearly lost his life when he crossed the roaring gorge which separates the halves of the city. With a medicine case strapped to his back, he finally crossed the stream by clinging to a cable thrown from one shore to another and administered to the sufferers on the deluged side.

Dr. Hyatt was the only man who would venture across the swollen stream.

The town is under martial law. Students from the

university were sworn into company K of the Ohio National guard, stationed there, and orders were given to shoot dead any who attempted vandalism or robbery. This step was taken when it was learned that a number of tramps, who had ridden into the city the day before the flood in a box car, were looting houses.

CAMPUS IS A LAKE.

The university campus became a lake. The buildings, which are on high ground, had not been reached by the encroaching waters when the girls left. Student quarters, however, were flooded and the school was dismissed until April 9.

The following account of the catastrophe was given by Miss Mills a Wesleyan college girl:

"The rain began on Easter Sunday. By Tuesday night Delaware was deluged. Lights were out, car service suspended, and there was no water with which to fight fires should conflagration break out. All was chaos and confusion.

"It is estimated that 4,000 persons were homeless and destitute on the east side of the Olentangy river. It was freezing cold and the sufferings of these marooned people must have been terrible.

"The boys from the college did heroic rescue work. They began at 3 o'clock Monday morning when we were awakened by cries and the firing of distress guns. The

boys organized themselves into shifts and worked continuously. They saved many lives.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST.

"The unwritten law of the sea, 'women and children first,' was enforced with determination and heroism. The men of Delaware have done all that could be done to protect their women. Despite the efforts of rescuing crews, there was a great loss of life however. There is no way of telling how many are dead on the east side of the river.

"Some of the college men brought the word to the dormitory, where the girls had established a relief station, that one entire family had been wiped out in a most spectacular manner. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Melching and five children died when a gigantic tree, swept down by the current, crashed into their home just as they were attempting to escape on a raft.

"One little girl, 12 years old, carried from the flood by rescuers who came too late to save the remainder of the family was taken to an improvised hospital, ignorant of the fate of her parents, brothers and sisters.

Three women were drowned when the police attempted a rescue on East Winter street. They were taken from a second story window, but the boat, which was a light craft, was thrown against a telephone pole

and demolished. The women were swept away in the current. Their names, according to a handbill printed by the Delaware Gazette, containing a roster of the dead, were: Mrs. Slosson, Miss Esther Jones and Miss Hazel Dunlap.

FRATERNITIES AID SUFFERERS.

"College girls established a bureau of relief and gave their own clothing, in some cases, to destitute flood victims. A corps of girls sewed day and night for the refugees. The Beta Theta Pi, the Phi Kappa Psi and the Sigma Chi fraternity houses are thrown open for relief stations.

"Professor W. E. Dixon, director of physical culture at the university, and Robert T. Hills and Frank Ellison, students, were marooned twenty-four hours in a tree, when we left the city. The three had been engaged in rescue work and the skiff in which they were riding was overturned. They swam to a tree, which they climbed, where they remained for thirty hours, their wet clothing freezing to their bodies.

"It was stated in Delaware, before I left, that a relief train was on its way from Cleveland, with a life saving crew and boats with which to reach the marooned people on the east side of the river."

"We are justly proud of our college boys," said Miss

Edith Quayle, daughter of the superintendent of motive power of the Chicago & Northwestern railway. "They certainly were heroes in this emergency. If it had not been for them there certainly would have been a greater loss of life. Their work in taking frantic women and children from deluged buildings will long be remembered."

Miss Lees brought a "flood extra" of the Delaware Daily Gazette, dated 5 p. m. March 25. The extra names seventeen dead and recounts the valiant work of rescuers. The paper is an example of the production of a newspaper under difficulties. With gas, electricity and all public utilities out of commission, the type was set by hand and the paper printed on one side of a "bill sheet" on a job press.

The paper tells of the perilous condition of Mayor Leas of Delaware. Swept from a rescue boat, from which he had been directing the work of saving lives, he managed to gain a second story building in the business section. When the paper was printed, aid had been unable to reach him.

Walter Kelchner, a student was named as the saver of many lives.

The damage was placed at $2,000,000.

CHAPTER IX

WHOLE NATION AIDS SUFFERERS

FOODS, CLOTHING AND MEDICINE POURED INTO OHIO—SWEEPING AWAY OF BRIDGES HAMPERS RELIEF EXPEDITIONS—GOV. COX REVIEWS SITUATION AT END OF FLOOD WEEK.

On Saturday of the flood week Governor Cox issued a statement which showed the extent of the relief work being done. His report was a wonderful testimonial to the big hearts of the American people, who from every state in the Union had poured in food and supplies of every kind. At no time was there a lack of relief supplies for the people penned up by the floods. The only problem that had to be overcome was that of getting to the sufferers the abundant stores of food, clothing and medicine which the sympathetic people had provided.

Governor Cox said under date of March 29:

"The end of the week finds the state dazed and numbed in contemplation of the tremendous and widespread destruction in almost every section. The situation today assumed a few novel angles. It is becoming

now a problem of food within our borders. A condition which demonstrates how impotent even a great state is when communication is severed with the outside world.

"Cincinnati, in the fullness of her bounty, shipped trainloads of supplies into the lower Miami Valley and the southeastern part of Indiana as well. Philanthropy displaced prudence, and to-night the Queen City of the West appeals to the state for assistance.

"Dayton and Zanesville, the two troublesome points so far as extension of relief was concerned, are in pretty fair shape. The Western food supply was tapped by way of Indianapolis. The Chicago Association of Commerce, at our request, established a base at Indianapolis so soon as railroad traffic was resumed between Dayton and the Indiana capital.

LIME GREATEST NECESSITY.

"Ten carloads of lime, five car tanks of gasoline and a trainload consisting of bread, vegetables and clothing, are on their way to Dayton now from that point. Lime is as needful now as food for the purposes of disinfection.

"The West is also supplying medical supplies, particularly antitoxin for the diphtheria outbreak. Dayton's last appeal was for automobile trucks. It will be

harder to meet this requisition than any previously made, but the appeal has gone by wire to Cleveland, Detroit, Toledo, Lima and Indianapolis.

"If the wonderful response that has come to every request up to this time is an index, then we ought to have 200 automobile trucks with drivers in Dayton Monday morning. These will be used for the purpose of distributing the food supply.

"The military organization has been of great service, and the week closes to-night with some measure of consolation in the thought that every section that has appealed to us has had hunger appeased. Colonel Zimmerman of the Eighth Regiment was sent at daylight from Dayton into Hamilton, and this afternoon he sends his official report, which is, indeed, a gruesome tale. Ninety-one bodies will be interred to-morrow. Two hundred horses were burned in the street. Two or three of the principal thoroughfares have been washed into ditches twenty feet deep.

CRISIS AT HAMILTON.

"Hamilton will supply a real problem because we have reached it until now through Cincinnati. It has been impossible to get there from the north. With the Cincinnati supply diminishing down to the point of need and the Ohio flood situation cutting off com-

munication from both the east and south, we doubtless face a crisis in dealing with the situation of Cincinnati and Hamilton.

"Secretary of War Garrison arrived at Dayton by automobile from Cincinnati. The sanitary conditions there are bad and at our request he has assumed sanitary charge of the city. Dr. Rupert Blue, who was of such service at San Francisco, assumed personal supervision of the work.

"The whole country is loud in its praise of John H. Patterson. His was the master mind at Dayton, and through the remarkable organization of the National Cash Register Company, which stretches out over the whole United States, he was enabled to be as potential as even the federal and state governments in the first forty-eight hours of the flood famine.

"The power of the military force finally bore into Zanesville. That situation developed the same degree of heroism exhibited elsewhere. Judge Adams, formerly of the Circuit Court, and now dean of the law school in the State University, reached his office at his home in Zanesville by horseback and on foot, and brought back to-day the first verbal report of the condition in the Muskingum Valley. Food expeditions from the north, east and west of Zanesville were successful, rendered so by the transportation of high-powered motor boats by train.

FOREIGN RESIDENTS THREATEN.

"Many of the Ohio manufacturing cities have never until now appreciated the lurking danger of a congested foreign population. Youngstown and Zanesville were under great apprehension for a considerable time because of the ominous muttering from the foreign sections. Food is the solution of the situation, and it has been met.

"Marietta entered the list of sorely stricken cities to-day. The water there has exceeded the 1884 stage and a goodly portion of the city is inundated. The relief commission for the time has provided for Marietta.

"The wire chief operator of the Bell Telephone Company, Ralph Jackson, reports to-night that an appeal has come from Portsmouth. Water in the Ohio is sixty-eight feet high and still rising. Report is that the business buildings are on fire. In Gallipolis the water is still rising. At last report it was sixty-two feet.

"The telephone building has caved in and communication put out of commission.

"All Ohio towns are wrapped in water to-night. Ripley, Pomeroy, Middleport and Gallipolis are heavy sufferers. New Richmond, Higginsport and seven little towns in Clermont County are in trouble.

"Arrangements were perfected to-night to tap the

food supplies in the hills. Clothing will reach there the early part of the week. It is said that there is not a bridge standing over either the Muskingum or Miami Rivers.

LEGISLATORS AT RESCUE WORK.

"The loss at Columbus will be about 100 lives. The maximum at Dayton, as it appears now, will be 200. Hamilton will run about 150.

"It is suggested to-day that the Legislature recess for a week. That body, as the result of labors in the flood districts, is in no condition to transact business, and besides the state will need at least a week to reflect on the constructive legislative measures presented. No such emergency has ever presented itself to any American commonwealth. With that resourcefulness characteristic of the race, vast engineering projects are already discussed to change the course of rivers in several Ohio cities. Experience has taught a bitter lesson.

"Estimates have been made this afternoon with considerable care and it is the belief that property loss in the state will aggregate $300,000,000."

CHAPTER X

CITY OF DEAD, DYING AND HOMELESS

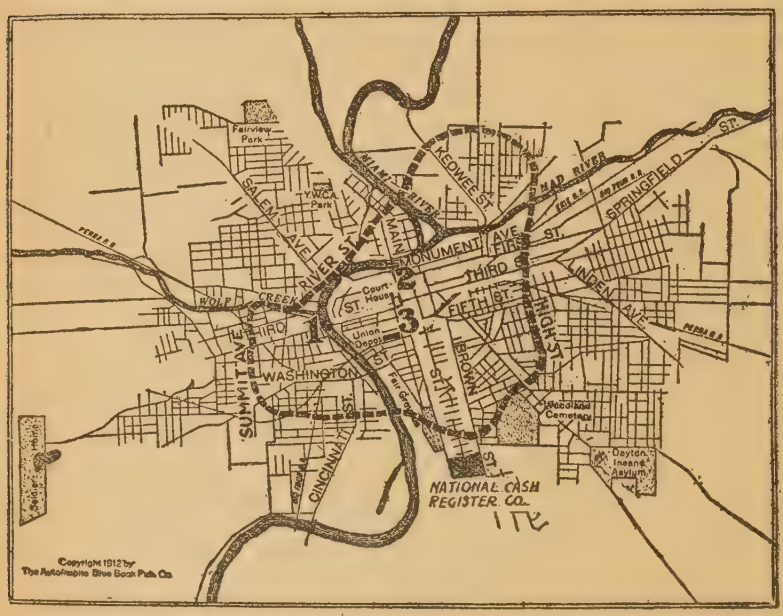
MAIN LEVEE OF BIG MIAMI RIVER BREAKING LETS FLOOD IN UPON OHIO CITY—BELL, LONE OPERATOR IN TELEPHONE BUILDING, INFORMS OUTSIDE WORLD—HIS GOOD-BYE—TROOPS AND SAILORS TAKE CHARGE.

The flood came to Ohio soon after daylight after the residents had spent a night in terror.

The main levee of the Big Miami broke at Webster street in Dayton at about 8 o'clock. An hour later the water was through in a dozen places and a wall of it ten feet high swept through the main street. Just above the juncture of the Big Miami and the Mad rivers, and where the Stillwater river pours into the Miami the flood reached its height and rolled into the business section, a wall twenty feet high. The flood rose to the second floor of the Algonquin hotel and all along Main street occupants were driven to the third floors. That day Dayton was a city of the dead, the dying, the homeless and the grief-stricken. The full extent of its tragic story was not known until the last dead body had been taken from the flood that covered

half the city and the last charred body from the ruins of the fire that spread unchecked through the southern district of the city.

The whole story will never be told—the heroism of



MARKS LIMITS OF FLOODED DISTRICT.

MAP OF DAYTON, SHOWING LIMITS OF FLOODED DISTRICT

men, the martyrdom of women, the mad hysteria that seized some and caused them to jump to death in the flood, the torture of despair that gripped those who, imprisoned in their homes by the water, waited in vain for help until the advancing flames came and destroyed them.

KILLS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

A man marooned with his family on the roof of his home shot and killed his wife and three children and then himself rather than to suffer death in the flood, according to a report received by J. J. Munsell, employment superintendent of the National Cash Register Co., from a man who actually saw the occurrence. The bodies floated away.

In the Dayton disaster there was duplicated the heroism and the martydom of the Titanic, the horror of Johnstown and San Francisco after the earthquake.

Other men who have ventured into the flood district told stories of awful loss of life. To add to the horrors of the situation, reports reached the state house that buildings in the flood-swept district were being looted by men in rowboats.

To meet this emergency and to better patrol the West Side, which is under martial law, Governor Cox ordered that Troop B of the National Guard should patrol the ruined section of the city. It was believed the cavalrymen could cover more territory than foot soldiers.

HUNDREDS MAROONED.

Stories of terrible deaths, keenest suffering, heart-rending hardships and acts of heroism were told by men

in the rescuing parties. Hundreds of people were marooned in flooded homes, their rescue at that time being impossible because of the swift current of the river. Rescued people in dire straits were brought to the city hall in a stream all day, where hundreds wait to obtain news of missing relatives and friends.

Families were separated and men, women and children stand night and day at the edge of the water waiting for the flood to subside that they can reach abandoned homes.

The body of a man was suspended in a tree near Glenwood avenue, beyond the reach of rescuing parties. Other bodies were among debris washed up on the edge of the waters in the southwest end of the city. Near this debris were two submerged street cars, and in the tree with the corpse nine persons were said to have perished that afternoon.

The lone Dayton operator, John A. Bell, who heroically stuck to his post in the exchange of the Central Union Telephone Company throughout the long siege of flood and fire, flashed the word to the office of Governor Cox that the fires in Dayton had taken a new start, breaking out in many new places and getting so near to the telephone building that he would have to leave.

"I want to say good-bye," were the words he flashed out. "I am going to make an attempt to escape, but

may meet the fate of great numbers of others who have only escaped from the water to be burned to death.

"I can see buildings all around me in flames. People running back and forth, waving their hands and crying for help, but no one can save them. No boat can live in the awful currents of water rushing between the buildings. Men, women and children in the path of the flames are doomed.

"No one can estimate the number of the dead. Thousands are in the midst of these torrents and no one may ever know how many have died. Good-bye."

The last connecting link between flooded Dayton and the outside world was silenced. The spark died out and all was still.

Bell kept Governor Cox informed every half hour of conditions in the stricken city and delivered orders through boatmen who rowed to his window, called the state house at daybreak on Wednesday and greeted the executive with a cherry "Good morning, Governor; the sun is shining in Dayton."

But sunshine gave way to a driving snowstorm later in the day and the reports coming from Bell were less cheering as the day advanced, until the ominous word from Adjutant General Wood was received that what were most wanted in the one time Gem City were coffins and food.

General Wood had been marooned two days in a

fire engine house, but was found and rescued at the request of Governor Cox through the efforts of Bell. When Wood was taken to the telephone building he received orders from the Governor to take charge of the troops as they arrived and made a survey of the conditions in the city. His first report was that the water had fallen to two feet in the business section and that the danger of a widespread conflagration had been avoided by the Governor in having the natural gas supply of the city cut off.

The next report from Wood was that asking for coffins and food. The General said several hundred bodies were in sight and that he feared that the death list was larger than they had thought.

The naval militia was the first National Guardsmen to reach the flooded section of Dayton. They were in boats, which they handled to perfection in reaching imprisoned flood sections, and they did the first real work of rescue.

How the Toledo sailors covered the last lap of their journey was not detailed. At daybreak 410 guardsmen had got as far south as Troy, the naval reserves in the van. Half an hour behind them at that time were the life savers from Cleveland.

Ahead of them a relief train was scheduled to arrive from Springfield. Upon the arrival of the troops

RESCUING THE PERISHING FROM FLOODED HOUSES IN DAYTON

Dayton was placed under martial law, as were other flood-ridden districts where guardsmen were stationed.

Troops from Marysville reached Columbus and succeeded in getting to the hill tops at the west of the city, bringing the first aid to the people who fled from their homes to the high grounds. There was deep concern that many people living in the lowlands at a distance from high ground had been lost in the flood. All day there was a stream of automobiles carrying rescued people from the West Side to the City Hall.

It was with great difficulty word was obtained from Zanesville as to conditions there. It was reported that the water on Main street was fifteen feet deep.

CHAPTER XI

STORY OF THE MEANEST MAN—"I WANT THAT BOAT"

PAGEANT OF HORROR SEEN FROM RIVER BANKS—MORE ABOUT HEROISM OF COLLEGE BOYS—A PAUL REVERE.

"While at Delaware I saw college students make many thrilling rescues by swimming out into the swift current and swimming back with a flood victim. One young man swam out and rescued thirty persons in one day. He was the bravest fellow I ever saw," said Rev. E. R. O'Neal.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFLOAT.

"I saw a house with one woman and three children clinging to the roof floating down the stream. The house was whirling and bobbing up and down in the water. The woman was screaming for help. Persons on the edge of the flood had a small boat, but they could not row fast enough to catch up with the house.

"The house bore down on the Pennsylvania railroad bridge and crashed against it. The mother caught the bridge and held on. The children went down, but came

up again near a tree. The eldest child helped the other two and held on to the tree. The boat put out and rescued all of them.

"A few minutes later a house with an old man about 75 years and his wife floated down the stream. The woman was lying on the roof. The old man was holding her. Suddenly the house struck a tree and the brick chimney fell off. Then we saw the old man lift his wife in his arms and carry her to the chimney hole in the roof and let her down into it. When the rescuers put out in a boat and caught up with the house, one of the rescuers inquired for the woman.

" 'She is dead,' said the old man. 'She died two hours ago, and I was afraid to let her lie on the roof because the water would carry her away.'

SEES MAN AND WOMAN DROWN.

"I saw another house with a man and woman clinging to the chimney to keep from falling off. The house struck a tree and the chimney crumbled. Both went down before the boat reached them and we never saw them again. These are only a few instances of the horrible things seen in the flooded district.

"I went from Delaware to Prospect and the same tragedies were repeated. At Prospect I saw the meanest man in the world. The meanest man, I think, is a

farmer who owned a boat at Prospect. He lived across the river from the town. He lent his boat to a Baptist minister who used it for rescue work. They saved more than a dozen women and children during the day. It was the only boat in the town.

FARMER DEMANDS HIS BOAT.

"Although the minister could not rescue but two persons at a time he was doing noble work. Many persons were swept away before the boat could reach them. Late in the afternoon the farmer came to the shore and announced he wanted the boat. He declared he would take the boat by force. He said he wanted to go across the river and attend to some business.

"The minister refused to give up the boat, but offered to row the farmer across the dangerous river, if he could keep the boat. The farmer grudgingly assented, and a newspaper man from Marion and the minister rowed him across. It was the first attempt to take the boat across the swift river and was extremely dangerous.

"The preacher declared he would take any risk in order to keep the boat. They landed the farmer across the river after much difficulty. They started back and when in the middle of the stream the boat capsized and both went down. With the boat hundreds of persons could have been rescued.

BREAD FAMINE AT DELAWARE.

"To show they were willing to do anything to help the sufferers more than 100 students at Wesleyan college volunteered to leave the city so there would be 100 less to feed. The students departed at night for their homes in different parts of the country.

"At Celina I saw the same suffering. The town was under ten feet of water. I saw them take ten bodies from the water at Massillon, O. Prospect, O., was under fourteen feet of water and the river at that point was four miles wide. I saw them take more than a dozen bodies from the water.

"The reports of the dead have not been sent in from these small towns and the country will be appalled when the full number is known. From what I saw I do not think the reports have been exaggerated."

From out the little town of Minster, Ohio, in the heart of the devastated district, and only several miles south of the Grand reservoir, came a story of heroism that parallels the famed ride of Paul Revere. It was brought to Chicago by one of the first of the district's refugees to reach that city, Charles Dietrick.

"It was in Minster on Monday," Dietrick said as he stepped from a Lake Shore train. "Late that night I succeeded in getting away. I fled from the city be-

fore big danger appeared imminent. I ran away because of the warning that was given me."

Minster is south of the big reservoir and west of the Miami river. The river and the huge dam form a rim to a saucer-shaped valley, of which Minster is the center.

"The man who gave us warning is nameless, so far as I know," Dietrick told. "He rode through Minster late Monday night, calling out that the river was rising and that the reservoir seemed about to break. At the hotel in which I was staying his warning was received with cynical smiles. I was one of the few that gave him credence. I got out on the last train run from the district."

What the failure of heeding the warning has cost the other inhabitants of the town probably was not known for days. Dietrick, who is a traveling salesman, living at Detroit, had little to lose in flying from the place at once.

Many were trapped between the waters of the broken reservoir and those of the flooded Miami.

"Our monitor had ridden through the entire stretch of country between Minster and the Grand," Dietrick told. "His horse was fagged almost to the point of dropping in its tracks. The clothing of the man was drenched by the rain that had been falling since Sunday. The cold wind had torn at his face until it seemed black-

ened. He told us that he had been riding since the afternoon and expected to stay in the saddle until daylight.

"'You don't seem to understand,' was the way he met the laughs that followed his first warning. 'I tell you I have seen both the river and the big dam. The river is away over its banks and rising every minute. The reservoir can't last. You'd better get onto higher ground while you have the chance. Good-bye.'

"Then he dashed away to the other houses and finally eastward from the towns to Anna and Swanders. Piqua was covered by water at the moment, but we didn't know it."

CHAPTER XII

TIFFIN HONORS "SAILOR JACK"

FLOOD IN OHIO CITY REVEALS POWERS OF OBSCURE WORKER—TELEGRAPH AND PHONE WIRES BECOME PATCHES FOR RESCUERS—NAVY MEN'S WORK.

Tiffin, Ohio, became a city of sorrow and desolation, paralyzed and grief-stricken, with a loss of fifty, and a property loss close to $1,000,000. The electric light, water and gas plants were out of commission and the city was in darkness.

The first to die were:

Mr. and Mr. W. D. Axline.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kenecht and five children.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Klinghrin and seven children.

John Canty.

Here is how some of them died:

When the Axline residence was picked up by the flood and started careening down the river, watchers saw Axline and his wife standing in the window of the second story. Her head was pillowed on his shoulder. The cries of the wife could be heard above the rushing water.

HUSBAND AND WIFE DIE TOGETHER.

Axline patted his wife on the back and kissed her. A moment later the house crashed into the Baltimore & Ohio bridge. It was splintered like a bundle of sticks. With their arms about each other, husband and wife disappeared beneath the raging waters.

When the home of Jacob Kenecht was swept away Mrs. Kenecht and her five children were in the dwelling. Kenecht was outside. When he was picked up by the current he grabbed the limb of a tree. He held on for fifteen minutes. Rescuers attempted to throw him a line. Each time the wildly running water held the rope within a few inches of his outstretched arms.

Finally, exhausted and numbed by the cold, Kenecht gave up the fight against death. "Thanks, good-bye, boys, I'm ——" his last words were swallowed by the water that engulfed him.

A terrible blizzard raged over the stricken city.

That the death list was not swollen Wednesday by several score was due to the bold efforts of the Toledo lifesaving crew with its three boats, and the Sandusky crew with its nine boats. These men saved many from death, braved danger in swirling currents and took desperate chances in rescuing families.

SAVES MANY FROM DEATH.

Until Monday morning, "Sailor Jack" Willis was an inconspicuous character in Tiffin. He is the city's hero. He took charge of the rescue work. The life-saving baskets and cables were made and operated under his orders. By stretching cables to a water-surrounded house, the occupants, one by one, were brought to places of safety.

"Sailor Jack" personally saved ten people. And after sixty hours of work, with no rest, he dropped exhausted. A movement was started to obtain for him a Carnegie medal.

Four women, two of whom were Mrs. A. W. Knott and daughter, were rescued from the roof of a barn on Water street by telephone linemen, who clung to the tops of the poles and swung lines to the women. The four were hauled to safety, hand over hand.

Regina Moltrie, school teacher, climbed a telephone pole when the flood struck her home. On her hands and knees she crawled across heavy cables to linemen, fifty feet above the rushing water.

FIVE RESCUED IN A BASKET.

County Treasurer W. O. Heckert, his wife, and three children were taken out of their home in a huge basket suspended to a cable. A life line was swung for

a block and a half to save County Surveyor Charles Peters, his wife and child. The family relayed from building to building. Sixteen people marooned in the Bonette Hotel were taken out in baskets, as were ten girls, employes of a mitten factory.

The bodies of four children, three boys and a girl, were found near the Tiffin Wagon Works. It is believed they were washed down from Upper Sandusky.

Mrs. Josephine Wagner, eighty-four, laughed at warnings of a flood. She refused to move. An hour later firemen carried her down a ladder from the second story of her home.

A relief train that was run to Findlay, Ohio, from Fostoria with a supply of provisions came as a godsend to hundreds of people actually suffering. Many people were at the depot and took what they could get, alleviating their immediate wants.

Where the high waters receded, several bodies were recovered. The persons had died from lack of physicians' care. Others were in a starving condition.

General Manager McMahon of the Northwestern Ohio Natural Gas Company announced that pressure in the company's mains was getting lower and Toledo's gas supply was cut.

CHAPTER XIII

CHILDREN BORN IN FLOOD

INCIDENTS WITHOUT NUMBER TELL TALE OF WONDER—INFANT SAVED IN PILLOW CASE—MAKING A BOAT EVERY SIX MINUTES IN CASH REGISTER FACTORY.

House looting began early and while National Guard companies were on duty, they were unable at first to control.

Incidents without number were narrated of persons in the flooded district waving handkerchiefs or otherwise signaling for aid being swept away before the eyes of watchers.

RESCUE BOATS SMASHED BY OBSTACLES.

Many of the rescue boats were swept by the current against what had been fire plugs, trees and houses. They were crushed. What life existed in the district which the water covered was in constant danger and helpless.

There were no boats in Dayton which could breast the current, and people gave up any attempts to reach the business section.

The National Cash Register Co. centered its efforts

at rescue and many saved their lives by creeping on a telephone cable, 100 feet above the flood. At first linemen crept along the cable, carrying tow ropes to which the flat bottomed boats were attached. When the flood became so fierce that the boats no longer were able to make way against it, men and women crept along the cables to safety. Others, less daring, saw darkness fall and gave up hope of rescue.

Those willing to risk their lives in the attempt to rescue, found themselves helpless in face of the water.

CHILDREN BORN IN CASH REGISTER PLANT.

Seventy thousand of Dayton's population were homeless for a time. The National Cash Register plant, on a high hill, offered the only haven in the south end. Three women became mothers in the halls of its office building the first night.

In the woodworking department of the Cash Register factory, boats were being turned out at the rate of ten an hour and these were rushed to where the waters had crossed Main street in a sort of gully.

But the waters crept up and the strength of the current was far too strong for the crude punts, though they were the best that could be made in a hurry. Trip after trip was made and hundreds of the refugees were taken from this stretch of houses.

Then came the fire, starting at Vine and Main streets. It jumped, and the houses on the other side were soon aflame.

In the middle of the street were a few frame houses that had been washed from their foundations. These were swirled about for a time in the water, and then cast into the flames.

Persons hurried from their roofs, where they had been driven by the flood, to the roofs of adjoining houses. Then the sun went down, leaving visible only a weird, desolate light from the fire.

The first to seek safety by sliding along the wire cables was a man. Then came four women. The first of the women was Mrs. Luella Meyer. She is a widow with one son, a boy in knickerbockers. He got out on the wire and with the agility of a cat was soon across. But Mrs. Meyer went over the boiling torrent, swayed as though faint, slipped, and the crowd stood breathless.

By a lucky chance the woman's senses came back to her so that she could grasp one of the wires. Hand over hand she was able to pull herself to the nearest pole, where she rested before again making the trial. This time she did not falter, but when she was met by the rescuers at the goal of safety she was limp from nervous and physical exhaustion.

BABY SAVED IN PILLOW CASE.

Then came two more women, and under the advice of the people standing on safe ground, they kept looking up, and were not subjected to faintness. Then came a young man and his wife. The woman went first, but when she reached safety she refused to get into the ambulance without her baby.

Another five minutes and her husband had been brought out to safe ground. He had the baby in a pillow slip, and the youngster celebrated his arrival to safe ground by a lusty yell. Others followed to safety.

The worst of the flooded district included all North and West Dayton, all the downtown section, the South Side as far as Oakwood, and all the residence suburb of Glendale. The district had a normal population of more than 50,000.

The three rivers that run through Dayton were spanned by mammoth concrete arch bridges, erected a few years ago. It was necessary to dynamite these bridges as great quantities of debris and float had gathered against them and backed up the waters and turned the current into the streets. Even with the bridges blown up, under direct orders from Gov. Cox, the channels were not large enough to carry the water away.

Hundreds of persons crowded in the upper stories of tall office buildings and residences, two miles each way from the center of the town, and it was impossible to approach them. At Wyoming street, three miles from which has been considered the danger line, water was running eight feet deep.

LACK OF FOOD AND WATER.

While those marooned in the offices and hotels were in no immediate danger of drowning, there was no way of obtaining food or drinking water for them.

First the frailer buildings swept into the stream, many showing faces of women and children peering from the windows. These were followed by more substantial brick buildings, until it became evident that no house in the flood zone was safe.

The houses as a rule lasted but a few blocks before disintegrating. The body of one gray haired woman floated down the stream only a few feet from the watchers at South Park street. The body caught on a guard rope, but swept clear and was gone before it could be recovered.

Governor Cox was in direct communication with Dayton shortly before 2 o'clock. The young woman telephone operator told the governor she was the last one left in the telephone exchange and said that as she was talking to him the Leonard building opposite the

city hall had just collapsed with many persons in it. Many other buildings she said had collapsed. The business section of the city she said was seven feet in water.

The Daily News, owned by Gov. Cox, was deep in water, but holding out against the flood.

George F. Burba, secretary to Gov. James M. Cox, and an Associated Press correspondent on their way to Dayton had a narrow escape from serious injury and probable death when they crossed a bridge which spans the Scioto river near Chillicothe, fifty miles south of here. The automobile in which the two men and their chauffeur were riding barely struck ground when the bridge crashed into the water behind them and was swept away.

Mr. Burba lived in Dayton, where he was employed on a newspaper owned by Gov. Cox prior to his coming to Columbus to be secretary to the chief executive.

Attorney Cox, brother of Judge Cox of the Supreme Court, refused to leave his house, though the water was up to his second story.

Fifteen men worked trying to protect the power plant under the direction of Superintendent Krueger. It was too much for them, however, and they had to cut a hole in the roof of the building and camp there all night. The last one was rescued late the next day.

CHAPTER XIV

RELIEF PARTIES SEE STRANGE SIGHTS

FEDERAL OFFICIALS TAKE CHARGE OF SANITARY RELIEF—GIRL STENOGRAPHER SAVED BY A HORSE—EXCITING TRIP OF LONE RESCUER.

The work of extending succor to the marooned inhabitants of the districts which still were flooded continued all of Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and the days following. In many sections were rowboats, skiffs and canoes, making their way with extreme difficulty among the heaps of wreckage and overturned houses, among tangled meshes of telegraph and telephone and electric light wires, seeking possible victims who had been uncared for.

NAVAL RESERVES IN RESCUES.

Among the organizations engaged in rescue work was the company of naval reserves from the United States ship Essex at Toledo, under Captain A. F. Nicklett. The company reached Dayton on a special train from Toledo and immediately launched a number of boats on the torrents. Up to 6 o'clock Saturday night

the sailors had been constantly on duty two days, and had to their credit a total of 979 lives saved. They were not thinking of sleep when darkness fell.

One crew in command of Ensign E. E. Liebald, with two boats, rescued 375 persons from the business section and the district immediately east of Main and west of Eagle streets at Dayton. Many of the sufferers were taken out of their homes only after the sailors had mounted to the tops of partly overturned houses and chopped through to the attics, where the inmates were huddled together waiting for death or rescue.

SAVED FROM BOX CARS.

Another crew under Junior Lieutenant Ross Willoh succeeded in saving 360 at Dayton.

Three boats under command of Senior Lieutenant Theodore Schmidt rescued 244 persons. The majority of these were taken from box cars, warehouses, freight sheds and grain elevators in the railroad yards. It was there that the water attained its greatest violence, rushing in whirlpools beneath the irregular buildings on either side of the tracks.

Navigation was extremely perilous on account of many submerged box cars, flat cars and overturned sheds.

Several times the rescuing sailors were capsized, but

managed to keep with their boats and right them again. Not a life was lost among the reserves or among the hundreds whom they attempted to rescue.

SEVENTY-ONE HOURS WITHOUT SLEEP.

While sailors worked incessantly to save lives Lieutenant Walter Gayhart, also of the ship's company, established a supply station in East Fifth street, where many refugees congregated, and issued rations to the suffering. He slept tonight after seventy-one hours of continuous labor.

Only those doing relief work or having official business were allowed out of doors after 6 o'clock. With the additional military forces which arrived the city was thoroughly policed.

Even with the careful policing some robbing had been done.

It was impossible to do much relief work at night and the curfew order was due in part to the advisability of keeping the men where they could protect their own households if necessary.

Fronts of stores had been broken down and merchandise was exposed. Some of this was stolen. One thief gathered a quantity of jewelry and was making away with it in a traveling bag when arrested.

The authorities were ready to take energetic meas-

ures. This was shown when Major Dupuy, angered at certain undertakers, expressed himself in the following statement:

"These body-snatching ghouls who operate as undertakers will be treated as they deserve if it takes the entire military power at the command of the medical department of the Ohio N. G.

"All medical and military officers have received orders promptly to arrest any undertaker or other person who recovers a body and does not immediately report it to this department."

FEARS OF EPIDEMIC.

Major Dupuy said also he feared an epidemic unless the most rigid sanitary rules were enforced.

"There are thousands and thousands of dead horses and other animals strewn about the city," said the surgeon as he directed his force in the field. "While we are impressing into service large numbers of men, it will require many days to dispose of the carcasses.

"To add to the menace of the situation, we found that, with one or two exceptions, every stock of drugs in Dayton was destroyed by the flood."

Major Dupuy said the city has been divided into six sanitary districts, each in charge of an officer of the sanitary corps of the National Guard.

A large corps of men was kept active in disposing of refuse and in disinfecting all premises occupied by refugees. Strict orders regarding the disposition of garbage were issued and the people were advised, by means of bulletins posted in conspicuous places in the streets, how best to preserve the public health.

TO AVERT PESTILENCE.

A small army of sanitary inspectors was pressed into service and every effort made to prevent any outbreak of a pestilence. It was owing to the frightful flood conditions throughout the entire territory of which Dayton is the heart, rendering transportation facilities of all kinds useless, that supplies for the medical corps did not arrive until several days after the flood broke.

U. S. TAKES SANITATION CONTROL.

Arrangements for placing sanitary measures in the hands of federal officials were completed at the conference among Secretary Garrison, Major General Leonard Wood, Surgeon General Rupert Blue and the local relief committee, headed by John H. Patterson.

After Secretary Garrison had talked over the telephone with Governor Cox he decided that while the state troops would be able to police the city, the federal government should have charge of the sanitation.

Mr. Garrison said that Major Thomas Rhoades, in co-operation with Major James C. Normoyle, would have charge in Dayton. Major Normoyle had experience in furthering relief in the Mississippi flood district last year.

Secretary Garrison gave out the substance of his telegram to President Wilson, as follows:

"I find the situation at Dayton to be as follows: The flood has subsided so that they have communication with all parts of the city, no one being now in any position of peril or without food or shelter.

"The National Cash Register plant has been turned into a supply depot and lodging place for those who have no other place.

"Surgeon General Blue and some of his officers are here, as are also some naval surgeons.

"We are all working in concert.

"The governor, the mayor, the local committees and the citizens have all expressed much gratitude at the action of the national government and have welcomed us warmly, all of them stating that the fact that a direct representative has been sent to their community has been of the greatest benefit to the morale of the city.

"I find a competent force is already organized to clean up the streets, remove the debris and do general work of that description and have agreed to work under the direction of the army surgeon I leave in charge of

sanitation. The National Guards have their adjutant general, George H. Wood, in command of the military situation, and he has cordially offered to co-operate in every way with our work of sanitation.

EXPRESSES HOPE FOR DAYTON.

"I think that the situation is very satisfactory and that this community will find itself in a reassured position within a short time, and facing only then the problem of repair, restoration and rehabilitation.

"I will go back to Cincinnati tonight to get into touch with matters left unfinished there, and will go to Columbus at the earliest moment.

"Governor Cox tells me that he thinks matters are in a satisfactory condition at Columbus; that he has ample immediate supply of medicines and other necessaries, and that much of each is on the way.

"The weather is fine and there does not seem to be any cause for apprehension of further floods in the vicinity of Dayton."

15,000 LIVE ON RATIONS.

Fifteen thousand persons subsisted on rations given out under direction of the relief committee at Dayton and elsewhere. Ten thousand of these, it is estimated, were in their homes and food was carried to them in boats and automobiles.

About 5,000 were cared for at the relief stations.

The relief committee made no attempt to keep a record of the number of rations sent out. There was plenty of food and it was placed in baskets in lots to serve five persons for two days.

Over candles, given out with the food, the people are cooking coffee, but other food is eaten cold.

There was no gas and little coal.

The relief stations were taxed to capacity, for the flood has subsided enough to allow people to leave their homes.

Homes of persons more fortunate were thrown open to those whose houses were swept away or destroyed. Homes usually housing four or five persons in many instances sheltered twenty to thirty.

LACK FOOD FOUR DAYS.

The relief committee sent tons of food to these people. Some were found on Saturday in the more remote sections who had not tasted food since Tuesday.

Dr. William Colby Rucker, assistant surgeon general of the United States public health service, who came from Washington at the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, with Surgeon General Blue, outlined the sanitary conditions of the city as follows:

"A survey of conditions in Dayton shows that the

sanitary situation is not so bad as was first thought. Citizens have been warned to boil all drinking water and to bury refuse. City water is now flowing under twenty-pound pressure. Sewers in some sections are again in operation. The city expects to have others working tomorrow.

"The city has been divided into sanitary districts, and physicians who have been sworn in as district sanitary officers are being instructed as to their precise duties as heads of these districts."

GIRL RIDES SWIMMING HORSE.

While the survivors were being cared for the pathos of the flood came to light in stories told by many. Occasionally the tragedy was made the more dramatic through contrast with an incident full of humor and romance.

Of the thousands of remarkable escapes the experience of Miss Flossie Lester, a stenographer, who was marooned on an overturned moving van in Edgemont, a suburb of Dayton, was considered one of the oddest. With several men, Miss Lester mounted on a passing van when the flood came. The van was soon overturned and the party thrown into the icy water.

The horses that had been hauling the van broke loose and separated, swimming for their lives. One of

them passed close to Miss Lester, who grasped a dangling strap and succeeded in climbing astride the animal's back.

For more than a mile and a half Miss Lester clung with her arms about the horse's neck until it reached a high approach of the levee near a farm house. Here Miss Lester fell unconscious to the ground. She was taken in by the farmer's family. The horse was taken to the barn.

Miss Lester told rescuers that she would buy the horse if its owner could be found.

LIVE LONG ON GRAPEFRUIT

Mrs. Clinton Wallace and her three children, at 3 Zinck avenue, had an experience of another kind. They were marooned without food until rescued Saturday night. They subsisted on grapefruit, a box of which they caught as it floated up to a window.

C. H. Pfeffer, treasurer, and C. D. Gutlip, division superintendent of a Detroit automobile company, who hurried as best they could through the flooded district from the Michigan metropolis to Dayton to rescue Pfeffer's sister, found her with another woman, both with babies in arms, on the roof of a farmer's home in Riverdale, their feet resting on the eaves-trough.

There were seven feet of water in Riverdale, Mr.

Pfeffer said, and 300 or 400 persons were marooned in second stories. He offered to take a boat load from one house, but as there was not room for every one none would leave their perches.

While those in Dayton had adventures enough to last the remainder of their lives, frantic fathers and husbands, wives and mothers out of town when news of the flood reached them also had troubles in attempting to return. With railroads out of commission in the Omaha tornado district and floods rampant from western Pennsylvania to the Mississippi, they found it difficult to return.

W. R. Sullivan, a Dayton business man on his way to Denver, heard of the flood while at Grand Island, Neb. He returned to Lincoln, Neb., where the difficulties of travel began. He darted to Kansas City, where delay confronted him; back to St. Joseph, Mo.; but here, too, no railroad would promise to deliver him to Dayton. Finally he went to St. Louis, caught a train to Guthrie, Ky.; worked back through Louisville to Cincinnati, and from the last city arrived home in an automobile. He found the relief committee had commandeered his own motor car and that his wife had given away most of her bedding, clothing and food, but that she and the children were safe.

Satisfied, Mr. Sullivan offered his services to the city. His story is a sample of hundreds.

SWIMS IN SEEKING FAMILY.

A druggist of Anderson, Ind., whose family was visiting in Dayton, arrived in a state of collapse. Despairing of traveling by rail, he set out to conquer the flood. Where he could he hired vehicles, but he pursued a straight course, fording or swimming icy waters, plunging through swamps and crawling over broken and dangerous trestles. His feet, knees and hands were swollen when he reached Richmond, Ind.

Jones learned his story, but not his name. It never was known whether he found his family.

From the Register, Wheeling, W. Va.

HAVOC OF THE ELEMENTS
Drawn by T. V. Gilkison

CHAPTER XV

HUMAN SIDE OF THE DISASTER

STRANGE ESCAPES AND INCIDENTS—A NOVEL RESCUE CAR—FIGHT WITH DROWNING RATS—"SAVE THEM OR DIE."

As the story of the floods was told piecemeal by the thousands who crept by devious and desperate means out of the stricken districts the world was furnished with most dramatic and tragic tales involving suffering, courage, terror, and occasionally the meaner side of human nature that led to looting and vandalism by human coyotes. These latter were summarily dealt with and on the whole they were remarkably few in number.

It was a time to bring out the good in men and the records of the thousands of brave rescues and sacrifices made during the trying week of flood and storm stands as a monument to the inherent goodness of mankind.

Among the stories of suffering and thrilling events was that of a man who came into the Pennsylvania railroad station in West Dayton, where temporary Western Union headquarters had been established, and, see-

ing some bread on a table, exclaimed: "That's the first bread I've seen since Monday." He helped himself.

MOTHER TORN FROM CHILD.

At Peru, Ind., a woman and two girls were loaded into a boat from the second story of a house. A boy eight years old was left behind. The mother was wild. She tried to turn back and get the boy, but the boat was filled to capacity and the lad was left behind.

Another case where a family were taken from their home and the daughter, a pretty child of ten, was missing. The father returned to the house, rescued the child, but when he returned the boat had been swept away by the swift current. A moment later the rush of waters engulfed the house.

Heroes unsung and unnamed were made in flood-swept Dayton during the days when the waters were running the highest and when the lives of thousands of persons were imperiled. The stories as told speak volumes for sturdy American manhood.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST.

"Women and children first," was the order that went out when the volunteer rescuers in boats first began their work. The order was obeyed to the letter. Women and children were first taken from the inundated houses. The men were left behind and told to

Survivor Viewing the Remains of the Diamond Moving Picture Theater After the Easter Day Tornado in Omaha.

Judge W. W. Slabaugh of West Farnam, Nebraska, Gathering His Valuables from Ruins of His Home.

Sacred Heart Convent, Omaha, One End of Which Was Demolished by the Tornado.

Beautiful Frame Houses Torn to Pieces by the Tornado in Omaha.

Business Section of Omaha, Where the Tornado Did Great Damage on Easter Day.

Flood Tearing Away Bridges and Factories Along the Miami River.

A Flooded Street in Dayton, Ohio.

General View of the Flood South of Dayton.

Wrecked Automobiles, After the Flood, Dayton.

Cleveland Life Saving Crew at Work in Dayton, Sent There by Secretary of Navy, Pulling Half Drowned Man Out of Water.

Houses in Omaha, Nebraska, Blown to Pieces by the Tornado.

Homes at Logansport, Indiana.

Navy and Army at Work at Logansport, Indiana.

Where Greatest Death Toll Was Taken at Omaha.

Where Many Lives Were Lost in Omaha.

Street Scene in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

swim. Many did swim to places of safety. Others could not swim and were lost to the world.

BABES BORN IN FLOOD.

Babies saw the light of day for the first time during the dark days when Dayton was cut off from the world by the flood. In one church three babies were born in one afternoon. Another baby came into the world in a motor boat. Its mother was being rushed to a place of safety when the stork dropped down into the boat and left its tiny bundle.

HOTEL GUESTS FORTUNATE.

Three hundred guests in the Algonquin Hotel were favored ones. They suffered little or no discomfort except from the cold. The water rose high about the hotel, but there was plenty of room on the upper floors for every one. Provisions and supplies were moved out of the danger zone as the waters were rising. Meals were served regularly.

ORDERS LOOTERS KILLED.

Two men caught looting were taken before the chief of police by soldiers. "Don't bring looters to me," said the chief. "Kill them if you catch them looting."

NOVEL RESCUE CAR.

Here is the way in which a number of persons were rescued from danger in West Dayton: A flat car weighted down with pig iron was run into the flooded zone on street car tracks. Six men went on the car; a hundred other men at the end of a steel cable furnished the motive power. Men, women and children were taken from submerged houses. Then the signal was given to haul away.

DIE IN SIGHT OF SAFETY.

Rescuers Thursday afternoon saw a large frame house floating down the river tossed high in the waves and buffeted by the adverse currents. Four women were seen in the windows of the house. Near the Main street bridge the women were seen to wave their hands at the people on the banks. Then the floating house struck the bridge. For a moment the house was lost to sight. A little later it bobbed up below the bridge. But the faces of the women at the window were gone. They had met death just when they had almost reached safety.

CRAZED BY EXPOSURE.

A mother threw her boy from the window of a submerged house to boatmen who had drawn near. The

child did not strike the boat. He fell into the water and was drowned. The mother was saved. A young husband was seen holding his wife, who was trying to throw herself into the flood. The woman was holding two small children in her arms. She had become crazed from exposure and fright. All were rescued.

BABIES LOST FOREVER.

Heartrending scenes were to be witnessed almost every minute as the rescued were being brought in. There were hundreds waiting at these places for some tidings of missing ones. Sometimes a mother was brought in. Her husband would see her and she would be clasped in his arms. Then he asked where the baby was. There would come a wail from the mother. The baby was not there; it had been lost.

FORCED TO KILL RATS.

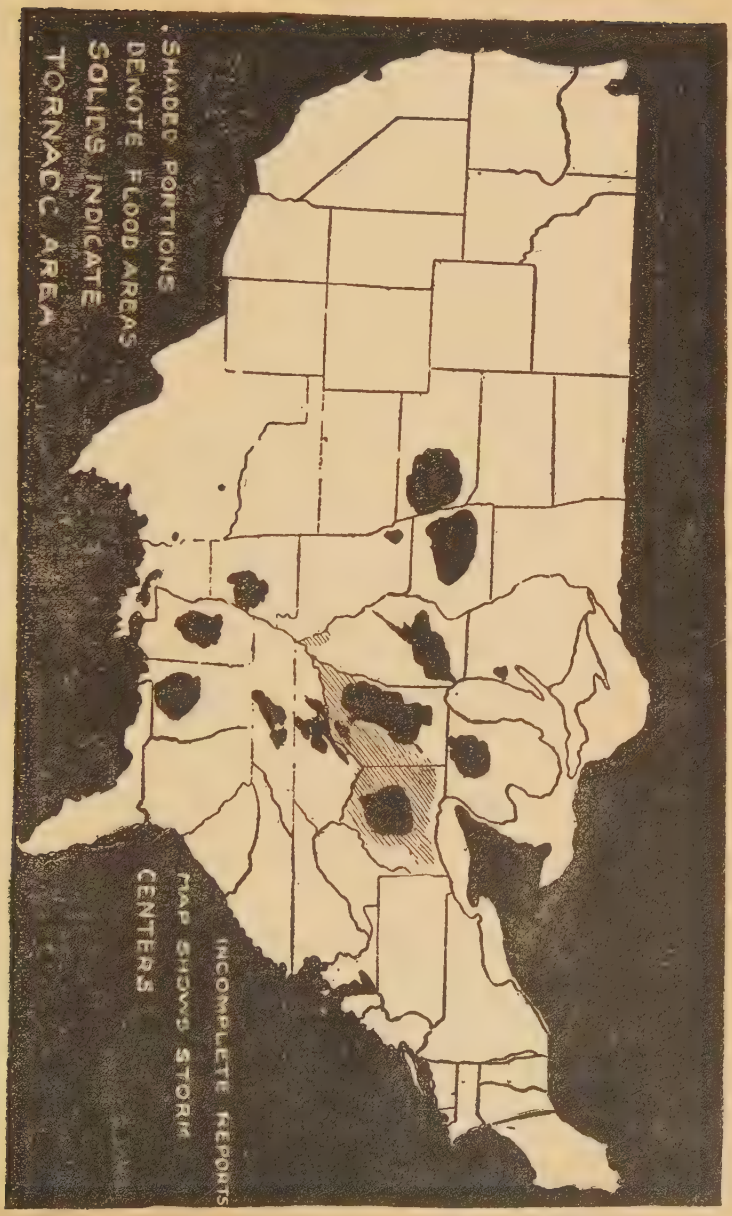
A party of rescuers approaching a house about which the water was running five feet deep heard several shots fired in rapid succession. The rescuers shouted and a man's face appeared at a window. He had been shooting at a horde of rats that were trying to get on the dry upper floor.

"SAVE THEM OR DIE."

A rescue party approached a submerged home in Dayton. A man, revolver in hand, leaned out of an upper story window. "Come here," the man commanded. "Come here or I'll shoot. I've got a wife in this house and a baby that is only a few hours old. The little one came while the flood was on. They have both got to be taken out of here and quick. Now come on if you don't want to be shot." The mother, close to death's door, was lowered into the boat by means of a rope, and was carried away to a place of safety. In her arms she carried her newly born babe. The father remained in the home.

TELLS OF DADDY'S BRAVERY.

August Schmidt was one of the heroes. He and his wife and two children were rescued. They had hung to the roof of their home for thirty hours. All of the time a cold, chilling wind was blowing; most of the time a heavy snow was falling. When the rescuers came upon them all were so chilled that they were unable to move a muscle. A little girl told the story: "When the water came into the house," she said, "we had to climb out on the roof. It was awful cold. Daddy held us or we would have fallen off into the water. He held us tight all the time and told me to be a brave little girl."


SHADED PORTIONS
DENOTE FLOOD AREAS
SOLIDS INDICATE
TORNADO AREA
INCOMPLETE REPORTS
MAP SHOWS STORM
CENTERS

SLAYS ENTIRE FAMILY.

In one of the foreign settlements a father shot and killed his wife and four children. Then he jumped into the flood and was drowned.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY IN WONDERFUL ESCAPE.

A. J. Baird told the story of the marvelous escape of 150 men and women who were penned up in the City National Bank building.

"We were all right," he said, "until the fire came. We cut the elevator cables and attracted the attention of a boatman. He risked his life to come near the building. He pulled the cable over to the courthouse and both ends were made fast. Then in the glare of the burning buildings, every one of us, men and women, made our way, hand over hand, over the stretched cable to the old courthouse. Women went first. I believe every one got over in safety."

CHAPTER XVI

EXCITING INDIVIDUAL ESCAPES

RESCUING CHILDREN FROM ORPHANS' HOME—SAVES FORMER ENEMY—"RUN FOR YOUR LIVES"—PRISONERS IN LIGHT PLANT—EVANSVILLE, IND., INHABITANTS IN DANGER.

L. J. Cullen of Butte, Mont., who was in Peru, Ind., escaped only after he had been rowed four miles from the courthouse to dry land and then walked twenty-five miles to Rochester, Ind., where he boarded a train.

Boatmen in Peru reaped fortunes by carrying flood sufferers from the danger zone, according to M. S. Scott, a traveling salesman from New York.

GIVE UP ROOMS TO MOTHERS.

"The conditions at Peru cannot be told," said Mr. Scott. "The appalling immensity of the loss and suffering numbs the brain of any one who has been through the district. I was at a hotel across the street from the courthouse and Wednesday night six babies were born to women who lay on the bare floor of the building. We had them rowed across the street and gave them our rooms."

SAVES FORMER ENEMY.

Michael Fansler, prosecuting attorney at Logansport, Ind., was the leader of the rescue work and incidentally figured, almost at the cost of his life, in the most dramatic incident of the flood. He and John Johnson, the postmaster, were in a boat with two women, each of whom had a baby in her arms. The boat capsized in six feet of water.

The prosecutor grabbed one of the women and her babe and caught a protruding telephone pole. From this position the prosecutor was rescued by a man whom he had tried only a few months before to put into the penitentiary.

Fansler's rescuer was Roy Titus, who went to his aid by the aid of a rope which Mrs. Titus was holding from the second story window of their home near by. The postmaster was saved by the sensational effort of a Chicago traveling man, D. L. McClure, who dived from the second floor of the Barnett Hotel.

During the worst day of the flood at Logansport, some one sent broadcast a report that the Celina dam had broken. "Run for your lives," was the message which flashed across the roofs. Bells and whistles were sounded in alarm. There were instances where the alarmed actually jumped into the torrents which circled

their homes and would have drowned but for the patrolling boats.

SAVED BY LINEMAN'S "GIG."

Imprisoned in the municipal light plant at Berea, Ohio, and forced to fight for their lives against the rising flood of Rocky river for more than twelve hours, F. M. Dorland, chief electrician; C. Mohr, second engineer, and John Wilczyk, engineer, were rescued after a half dozen attempts had failed.

Mohr, separated from his companions when a sudden rise of water drove them to the top of the machinery, managed to cut his way through the roof of the building and climb to the top of a telegraph pole.

From this point he was rescued by men on shore by means of a steel cable and a lineman's "gig" in which he was pulled across the swollen river.

Dorland and Wilczyk made their way through the roof and reached shore by climbing along a steel cable, hand over hand.

Previously Jesse Haley went up the Rocky river flats and put out into the flood in a rowboat, in an attempt to rescue the beleaguered electricians.

Haley's boat was caught in a swift current and carried 500 feet down the river, lodging in a clump of trees. Men on shore threw Haley a fish line, weighted

with lead. A heavy rope was made fast to the fish line and Haley pulled it to him, tying it about his body.

The men on shore started to pull the stranded boat and its occupant to safety, but before land was reached the boat capsized. Haley was pulled under water to the bank, where he was revived.

The rescue of sixty-nine orphans and six nurses after several of their companions had been drowned, was accomplished at Fort Wayne, Ind., by the Chicago life-saving crew of the United States government, under Capt. Charles Carland.

The efficiency of the motor boat and the hawsers carried by the crew was proved in a startling manner at Fort Wayne.

The county orphan asylum was crowded with children and nurses and they were gradually driven back until the only dry place was one room on an upper floor.

NURSE AND CHILDREN DROWN.

A volunteer crew went to the rescue of the children in a small boat. It capsized with a nurse and four children. All were drowned except one child. The hope of the little children from 8 months to 12 years old was then buoyed up by the promise that the Chicago life-saving crew was coming.

The Chicago live-savers came in the nick of time and as the water was threatening to swallow up the lit-

tle group, sixty-nine children and six nurses were saved by their motor boat. Soon afterward the orphan asylum was swamped from top to bottom.

From Chicago Tribune

WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND

Residents of Evansville, Ind., began leaving their homes on Thursday of flood week. The Ohio river was expected to pass the forty-five foot mark, and bring the water up to within two feet of the mark reached by the disastrous flood in January. Thousands of persons living in Oakdale, a suburb of the city, fled from their homes in terror. The city engineer began building flood gates at the upper end of the city to protect the people.

Mayor Heilman and city officials spent most of the day making preparations to care for the destitute and secured promises of assistance from the Salvation Army and the Associated Charities.

TRAIN SERVICE ANNULLED.

All train schedules in the flood districts were annulled. Railroad traffic in Southern Indiana was completely paralyzed. Many refugees are flocking to the cities, having been driven from their homes in the lowlands, and the business men arranged to care for those in need of food and clothing.

Two levees on White River near Decker, Ind., and three levees on the Wabash River near Vincennes, Ind., broke Thursday, overflowing 150,000 acres of land. The loss was more than a million dollars.

CHAPTER XVII

HUMAN LIVES SNUFFED OUT BY WATERS

EXPLOSION SENDS BURNING HAY FLOATING IN MIDST OF HOUSES, A FLARING TORCH OF DESTRUCTION—RESCUER IS LOST—ONE RAY OF GLADNESS, "JIM IS SAFE" —LEAPS FROM SKIFF.

Here is the story of George H. Schaefer, a rescuer who went out into the flood with a skiff and saved a woman and baby at Dayton.

"A house that had been torn from its foundation came floating up behind us," said Schaefer. "The woman was frightened. I told her there was no danger.

"Suddenly she stood up and jumped over with her baby in her arms. She went straight down and never came up again."

Then there was the horror that Bill Riley, former clerk of the United States court at Cincinnati and now a salesman for the National Cash Register Co., saw himself.

"We saw a very old woman standing at the window of a house waiting for rescue," said Riley. "We rowed

up to it. Suddenly the house parted and the woman in it was engulfed. It was the last we saw of her."

BABIES DROWNED.

Then there was the man who, almost rescued, had stepped into the skiff and then walked back into his home, which a short time later floated away with him.

And there's the story of the colored mother who was being rowed to safety with her two babies when the skiff struck a tree and the little craft capsized, so that the babies were drowned. The mother was rescued by Robert Burnham, owner of the skiff, only to die before she reached the hospital.

John Scott, an employe of the National Cash Register Co., who came recently from Butte, Mont., ascended a telegraph pole and guided across the cable to places of safety men, women and children rescued from flooded houses.

It would have seemed unreal if presented in a melodrama, this method of bridging a flood, but here it was done in the presence of hundreds who stood at safe spots appalled by the imminence of danger.

RESCUER LOST.

Scott had guided a dozen persons across the swaying bridge of wire when the explosion that started the

fire occurred. The shock knocked Scott from the pile and he fell into a tree.

"The last I saw of him he was trying to get into the window of an abandoned house by way of one of the branches of the tree."

The explosion blew a stable filled with hay into the middle of the flooded street, and this carried the flames to the opposite side.

The next house to burn was Harry Lindsay's, then Mary Kreidler's, and then the home of Theodore C. Lindsay. Houses that had been carried away from their foundations floated into the flames and soon were burning.

The fires burned without restraint because engines could not get near.

WOMEN IN TERROR.

At dawn there was left only the ashes of these homes.

The search for the dead did not begin until all the living were helped.

The most heart-tearing feature of the situation was the pitiable terror of the women and children.

Many of them sat up and sobbed throughout the night, refusing to believe their fathers and husbands were safe, and husbands and fathers who missed wives

and children cried their grief in the nerve-shaking way that strong men have of voicing sorrow.

Children were lost, having been parted from their mothers in the turmoil.

Dayton was a lost city for three days. It was completely separated from the rest of the world; its isolation was almost primeval; only one telephone line was working, and that a private wire between Dayton and Lebanon.

Between the city and safety was a whirlpool. Only a mile intervened, but it might be 1,000 or 5,000, for no word of what happened beyond the whirlpool came across the brief mile of water.

HOSPITAL PATIENTS IMPRISONED.

The big hotels, crowded with guests, were partially under water. The theaters were flooded. The wares of the department stores floated away. The jail, filled with prisoners, was inundated. The fashionable churches were awash inside, and at St. Elizabeth's hospital 600 patients were imprisoned in the floods.

All telephone communication was cut off, and none beyond the flood zone knew what disaster had overtaken that part of Dayton which was the center of its enormous wealth. There was nothing but the desolate glare

of the flames on Wednesday night to light up the tragedy and its mysteries.

After a night of terror that part of Dayton which had homes to sleep in woke with aching hearts.

The flames showed men, women and children perched on the roofs of houses in the path of the flames, waiting helplessly for the flames to devour them.

MEN VENTURE TO RESCUE.

Men ventured out into the tumultuous stream in small boats and rescued some.

Under the leadership of Frederick Patterson, son of John H. Patterson of the National Cash Register Co., a gang of men chopped a hole through a roof in the flood and fire district and saved a family of three.

They tried to get a raft that, bearing a man and four women, whirled like a spool in the rapid waters, but suddenly the raft was sucked up in the darkness and another chapter was added to the tragic doubt that now exists as to the number who have died.

Each fragment of the story was a tragedy in itself.

The thirty-one automobiles of the Cash Register Co. were pressed into service for rescue work.

ALL CLASSES HIT.

J. C. Hale, head of the welfare department of the plant, became head of the flood welfare work, and the

entire working force has become a charity organization.

A hospital department was established with two physicians, Drs. Blackburn and Herman, and hundreds were cared for.

Most of the deaths were due to inability on the part of refugees to fight the flood on rafts by which they sought to reach places of safety. Others were overwhelmed by the rush of the waters before they had a chance to attempt escape.

The disaster hit at the mansions of the rich as well as the tenements of the poor. It visited the fashionable Riverdale, and also the middle-class south-side.

On the floors of the Cash Register plant there slept the wife of the dry goods merchant and the wife of the hod-carrier, while in the men's quarters there fraternized the homeless laborer and the homeless lawyer.

GIRL DRESSES AS MAN.

"Norma Thuma," was the reply.

"Norma?" they asked.

"Yes, I'm a girl, was the answer.

She had put on men's clothes in order to cross the perilous span of wires unhampered by skirts.

ONE RAY OF GLADNESS.

There was brought from the flood Mrs. James Cassidy and her three children.

Mrs. Cassidy was grief stricken over the report of the death of her husband by drowning.

Even as she was being registered, there was brought into rescue headquarters a man who had to be held up and who was very wet.

"Jim! Jim!" suddenly shrieked the woman. "That's you, Jim, isn't it? You aren't dead, Jim; say you aren't dead."

Jim had been rescued from drowning. The return of James Cassidy was the one bit of joy in the awful gloom at the rescue station.

From the Register, Wheeling, W. Va.

IN THE HOUR OF NEED
Drawn by T. V. Gilkison

From Chicago Inter-Ocean

WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

CHAPTER XVIII

OMAHA'S TERRIBLE NIGHT

DESCRIPTION OF A GREAT CITY IN THE PATH OF THE AWFUL FORCES OF DESTRUCTION—HUMANITY RETURNED TO LIFE OF DESTITUTION IN A TWINKLING OF AN EYE—RICH AND POOR ON EQUALITY IN BITTER COLD OF WIND-SWEPT HILLS.

Omaha was struck by the tornado the afternoon and evening of Easter Sunday, March 23, 1913.

Buildings were blown down or picked up and hurled with terriffic force many yards, trees were leveled, and smaller structures were completely wrecked by the wind, which swept a path for itself directly through the most aristocratic, as well as the most lowly parts of the city. Some of the finest homes, those recently erected by Omaha's wealthiest men, were left a mass of ruins.

Hundreds of families saw their homes swept away or damaged so badly that they were uninhabitable, and the occupants were forced to bear the torrential rain that followed the twister.

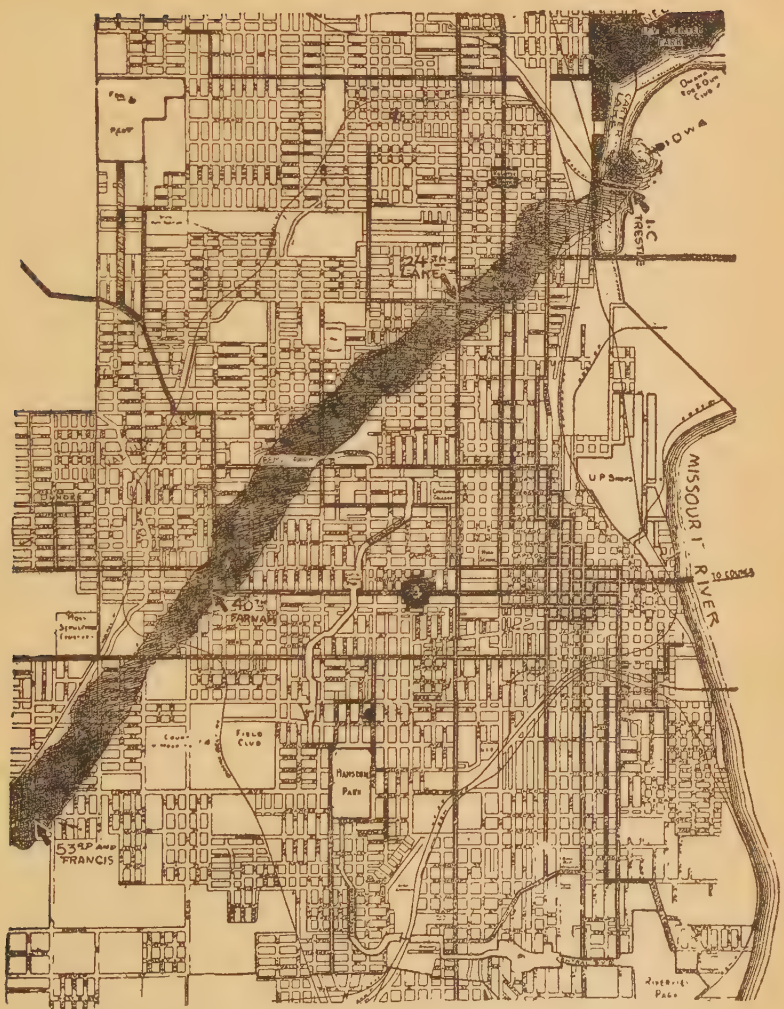
Following the tornado and the rain came an even greater menace in the fires that broke out in a score of

places. At least 25 houses were destroyed by flames. To add to the horror of the night, the electric lights were extinguished, leaving only the fitful flare from hundreds of lanterns to light up the scenes of sorrow, while the rescue parties were at work.

Those sections of the city which paid the heaviest toll were the districts surrounding the county hospital and the Child institute, and the territory near Twenty-fourth and Lake streets, and from there east. But from every point in the path of the storm persons were killed, injured or buried in the ruins of their homes.

ROAR OF TORNADO GAVE WARNING.

Southwest of Omaha, coming toward the city with the speed of an express train, the roar of the whirling, twisting wind could be heard long before the storm struck. People in the southern portion of the city asserted that they could hear the angry rumble of the storm when it struck the village of Ralston. The vanguard of the storm was a huge fan-shaped cloud which gradually narrowed into a funnel-shaped cloud that dipped earthward and wherever it struck left a wake of death, injuries, and wrecked homes. Almost all over the city people stood and watched the storm approach, even when in its very path, some seemingly without the power to move, or not knowing which way to go.



From Omaha Daily News

ROUTE OF THE STORM THROUGH OMAHA

The streets in the storm's path were filled with debris.

SURVIVORS TURN TO WORK OF RESCUE.

Although dazed for a time by the suddenness of the storm and the damage done, the people living in the wrecked portions of the city who were unhurt and those residing nearby hastened to the task of rescuing the injured.

With a motor wagon pressed into service, physicians and nurses hastily summoned and hospitals and other public buildings turned into relief stations for the injured and morgues for the dead, every undertaker's establishment in the city, and even in South Omaha, was taxed to the limit in caring for the dead.

As the night wore on the devastation wrought by the storm became more and more evident, and the city commissioners, headed by Mayor Dahlman, took personal charge of the relief work. Headquarters were established in the telephone exchange building at 23d and Webster streets.

CALL STATE TROOPS TO MAINTAIN ORDER.

Every policeman and fireman in Omaha, South Omaha and Council Bluffs was used in an effort to prevent looting of buildings and to aid in the rescue of the injured and putting out fires. Before morning a call

for the local companies of state troops had been issued, and the state troops will aid the regulars and the city officers in guarding the wrecked buildings and in searching the ruins for the dead and injured.

As soon as daylight appeared Mayor Dahlman and Major Hartman made a tour along the storm's path and planned the work of caring for those rendered homeless by the storm, and for the policing of the entire district.

The Diamond moving picture theater, between 24th and 25th, on Lake street, was totally destroyed by the storm.

MANY BODIES TAKEN FROM DEBRIS.

A soldier who stood guard all night at the corner of 24th and Lake streets saw seven bodies taken from the place and 10 or 15 more were removed later.

Two babies were blown out of the building, and the others piled in a heap on the floor when the storm struck the Child Saving institute, 42d and Jackson streets. The babies were in their nursery on the second floor of the west wing of the building, which was partly blown away. One of the babies blown away was found nearly a block distant, dead. Her name was Thelma. All of the little orphans were injured.

HYSTERICAL WOMEN FLOCK TO MORGUES.

The Commercial club threw its luxurious clubrooms open as a place of refuge for members who suffered in the cyclone.

The morgues were places of horror. Friends and relatives of the people who lived in the path of the storm flocked to view the bodies. Weeping, hysterical women stood in front of the undertaking rooms in small knots, begging officials for information regarding those they believed met death. Hospitals were besieged by frantic people, all demanding information regarding the injured.

VANDALS PREY ON WRECKED HOMES.

All hospitals in Omaha, South Omaha and Council Bluffs were filled to capacity, in many cases the ones who were least injured being placed on cots in the hallways and corridors.

Shortly after 9 o'clock the United States troops, militia and police threw a line entirely around the path of the storm.

Looting was going on all during the night, according to police, although no arrest of the ghouls has been made. Sightseers and victims all tell of robberies perpetrated while the panic reigned after the storm subsided.

HELLO GIRLS BRAVE AS WIND HITS EXCHANGE.

Not a single telephone girl left her switchboard when the storm struck the city. The exchange buildings escaped serious injury, and the girls remained on duty as if nothing had happened. Every telegraph official in the city reported for duty, and the lines were repaired and put in operation as fast as possible. Most of the city could be reached by telephone three hours after the storm.

The Webster telephone exchange at 22d and Lake streets became a center for rescue work as soon as the cyclone had passed. Physicians and nurses were summoned to the building, and army officers' headquarters were established there. One hundred and seventy-six young women were working at the switchboard when the cyclone struck. Every window in the building was broken out, and considerable damage was done to the building, but the switchboards remained intact. All night the force of operators continued to work at the board.

GLASS SHOWERS GIRLS BUT THEY STICK TO JOB.

Within five minutes after the storm struck every girl was at her place at the switchboards, and many continued to "plug in" while broken glass was showering about them. One of the rest rooms, the furniture soaked with water and stained with blood, was con-

verted into a temporary morgue, and bodies from the surrounding afflicted district were held there awaiting ambulances. Nurses and physicians occupied another room, where injured persons were stretched upon the floor.

F. E. Russell lay upon the floor, his body covered with blood and his face disfigured almost beyond recognition. Russell had been buried under a brick wall in one of the 24th street buildings that were demolished. Fire surrounded him on all sides, and he was nearly dead when dragged from the burning ruins. Russell was delirious while lying on the floor of the temporary hospital in the telephone exchange and constantly talked about the fire, which he thought was still about him.

PRIEST CALMS INJURED—PRAYS FOR THE DYING.

The Rev. Father P. J. Judge, pastor of the Sacred Heart church, a little north of 24th and Lake streets, was in the telephone building, speaking comforting words to the suffering, and praying for the dying. Many members of the priest's congregation were injured, though service was not going on at the time.

Telephone poles, trees and wrecked houses filled all the streets around the telephone building, making it impossible for any vehicles to get near the place.

AUTOS PRESSED INTO SERVICE AS AMBULANCES.

Automobiles passing were all urged to stop, either to get a doctor or to take the injured and dying to hospitals.

Two men in an automobile refused to heed the call to take a dying man to a hospital. The crowd reviled them and they only escaped violence by speeding ahead.

The Sacred Heart convent, one of the finest Catholic schools in the country, was directly in the path of the storm and was totally demolished. It is considered a miracle that every person in the enormous building escaped without injury. They were all saved and became aids in rescue work.

CONDUCTOR TELLS HOW WIND WRECKED CAR.

A street car on a North-side line was demolished by the cyclone and ten of the passengers injured. Conductor Caldwell said: "I was on the back platform when I saw the cyclone coming. I gave the signal to stop, shouted to the passengers that a cyclone was coming, and ran for a basement of an unfinished building. I jumped into the basement, and three or four passengers were beside me. Wreckage flew over us and a lot of boards were piled on top of us. A scantling was driven through the car and wedged between the seats and the side of the car. I didn't quite have time to

make out accident reports, as required by the rules of the company.

"It seemed to me that the horror lasted about two minutes," he said. "Then I crawled out and picked up two passengers, a man and a woman, who were lying unconscious in the street."

How anybody could live in the car is a mystery. Every window was broken, bricks and debris of all kinds are piled inside the car and every seat is torn loose.

Decatur and Franklin streets were filled with debris and lined with blazing homes for three-quarters of a mile immediately after the cyclone. As the fires spread the destitute families wrapped their wet and ragged garments about them and hurried toward the central part of the city. The high hill overlooking the scene of desolation in the Decatur district was soon crowded with the destitute and injured victims of the storm, scores of men and women weeping silently as they watched the wrecks of their homes lighting up the towering sky.

Many victims, exhausted and almost hysterical, gathered together in family groups and sat on the sidewalks through the cold rain that followed the cyclone.

SURVIVORS ROAM ABOUT HOMELESS AFTER FIRES.

For three hours the fires lit up the sky. As the light died down the refugees from the stricken district wandered aimlessly on, unable to command the services of any vehicle unless there was a very badly injured one in the family.

Mrs. G. E. Medlock was about to give birth to a baby when her home at 29th and Decatur streets was blown to atoms. Her husband was badly cut about the head and two little daughters were injured. Most of the clothing was torn from the bodies of all members of the family.

Mrs. Medlock, attended only by her husband, lay on a roofless house for four hours, drenched with rain.

A motor hearse was stopped by the injured man, and took Mrs. Medlock to the home of a friend.

WOMAN SURVIVOR MOURNS LOSS OF DOGS.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Planteen, 2710 Decatur street, rushed to the basement when they saw the storm coming. With their arms locked about each other they waited, while their home crashed about their ears. When they had been rescued, Mrs. Planteen, standing amid the wreckage of her home, wept bitterly because two dogs worth $500 each were killed.

Mrs. Mary Eldridge, sixty-five, was buried in the

ruins of the home of her grandson, Ray Davenport, 27th and Franklin streets, for two hours while members of the Council Bluffs fire department chopped their way to her. Mrs. Eldridge suffered severe bruises and from exposure. Mrs. Ray Davenport was injured by the debris of the Davenport home.

STORM CLEAVES PATH SIX BLOCKS WIDE.

The path of the storm was six blocks wide, and along the way houses were smashed to bits, torn to shreds, heaped in queer piles, as if the demon of the air had spitefully tossed them with all his might.

All bodies that were picked up hundreds of yards from the point where the wind had first caught them were found horribly mangled, some of them entirely beyond recognition. Cries of the injured drew rescuing parties to hundreds of different points, and the victims were drawn out from under the walls of their homes, offering thanks to God that their lives had been spared.

STORM DRIVES TREES THROUGH BUILDINGS.

Many are the freaks recorded in the path of the cyclone. Houses were left unscathed while their neighbors' were literally torn to pieces, splinters were driven through trees, and in one place the lower story

of a house was torn out while the upper story settled in its place. Shade trees were uprooted and driven entirely through brick buildings. Wires were torn down and wrapped about telegraph poles, as if wound by the hand of an artisan.

In portions of the wreck-strewn path, vast throngs of people stood with uncovered heads, tears streaming down their cheeks, as firemen and soldiers came out of the debris carrying in their arms the bodies of children, their mothers and fathers.

MANY FIRES BREAK OUT AS STORM PASSES.

Over a score of fires broke out in the cyclone-swept section immediately the storm had passed. Fire stations received calls from a dozen places at once. Wrecked and partially wrecked houses at 42d and Farnum streets, 22d and Cummings, 28th and Indiana avenues, 30th and Hamilton, 33d and Cummings, 36th and Cummings, 47th, 48th and Leavenworth, 22d and Pierce, 14th and Emmet, 24th and Lake, and other places caught fire from stoves, electric wiring and furnaces, and were soon in flames. Some of the burning, wrecked houses contained people who were buried in the wreckage.

HEAVY RAIN PUTS OUT MANY BLAZES.

The heavy downpour of rain which followed the storm saved much other property from being destroyed

by fire. The rain quenched the flames, and in many places put out the fires in stoves.

The Idlewild club building at 24th and Lake streets was wrecked by the storm and then destroyed by fire.

MERCHANT KILLED—WIFE AND GUESTS HURT.

George L. Hammer, one of the best-known merchants in the middle west, and proprietor of the Byrne-Hammer dry goods company of Omaha, was taken out of the wreckage of his home the night of the storm, and died in St. Joseph's hospital. Mrs. Hammer was seriously injured, while Mrs. Arthur Lavidge and her baby son, who were visiting at the Hammer home, were painfully injured.

The body of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Daniels and their two little daughters, all victims of the storm, were taken from their home on 19th-av and Locust street to the Webster exchange telephone building.

A sixteen-year-old son of the Daniels arrived at the home just as his parents and sisters were being removed.

"He was crying and wanted to fight when he saw us removing the bodies," one of the soldiers who helped remove the bodies said, "and we had to drive him away by force."

FALLING WALLS CATCH—NEAR SAFETY.

William Sell, 3465 California ave., rushed his wife, daughter and Miss Gilpin, nurse at the Omaha general

hospital, who was visiting at the Sell home, into a cellar and followed after them as his house blew down.

After the fury of the storm was spent, Sell held up the floor of the house when the women crept forth. Then, just as all had practically reached safety, a part of the wall of their house caved in and all four were injured by falling bricks.

A dog held four men 15 minutes from recovering the body of a man killed in his home near Long school. The dog stationed himself upon the body of his master and would let none of the rescue workers come near it.

The man was mangled almost beyond recognition and pinned down under a number of gas pipes.

THOUSANDS RAISED TO PUSH RELIEF WORK.

The Union Pacific railroad donated $5,000 for the relief work and several business men made up a purse of $5,000. Civic and social organizations called at once on their members for clothing, bedclothes, tents and practically anything that could be used to aid the stricken people.

Gov. Morehead issued a statement declaring that the state was willing to do anything to aid Omaha city in this hour of sorrow, either with money or with state supplies.

GOVERNOR IN CHARGE OF RELIEF WORK.

At 9 o'clock Monday morning Gov. Morehead, rushed to Omaha on a special train with Adjt. Gen. Hall and made a tour of inspection along the path of the cyclone.

Tears stood in the executive's eyes as he viewed the ruins of what had once been Omaha's most beautiful residence district.

The sight that presented itself is unequaled in the history of the state. Plans and maps of the path of the storm were platted on the ground by army engineers called from Ft. Crook. Calls were issued for three companies of militia from outside Omaha, while the companies in the city were mobilized to carry on the rescue work.

300 SOLDIERS PUT ON PAROL DUTY.

Three hundred regular army soldiers from Ft. Crook were the first to respond.

After a night of terror, in which women and children frantic with grief walked the streets cold and homeless, Omaha awoke to a scene of almost unbelieveable devastation. Entering the city from the southwest, after wiping Ralston entirely from the map, the tornado swept past the county hospital to the west and

swept in a northeasterly direction taking everything in its path.

One hundred thousand grief-stricken, sobbing people assailed every source of information for some assurance that relatives or friends had not perished in the storm.

GUARDS KEEP CROWD BACK FROM STORM ZONE.

Guards at the scene of the wreck kept the crowd back by force, clearing the devastated region for a block on each side of the path.

Six relief stations were established in the vicinity of the ruined district, and every drug store gave liberally to aid volunteer nurses in caring for the injured persons.

At a meeting held by Mayor Dahlman and city commissioners on Monday morning the city of Omaha appropriated an emergency fund of $25,000 for the relief of the victims.

A regiment of militia was ordered to aid the government troops in going through the ruins in the grewsome search for bodies.

OMAHA'S MAYOR MADE AN APPEAL TO PEOPLE TO HOUSE THE HOMELESS AS FOLLOWS:

A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR:

TO THE PEOPLE OF OMAHA: A great calamity has struck our city. Many lives and homes have been destroyed. The authorities, with the assistance of Major C. F. Hartmann of Fort Omaha, with two hundred troops, are doing all that can be done in guarding property and rescuing the dead and injured.

It will be necessary properly to patrol this district, which extends over several miles of territory, until matters can be adjusted so that property may be protected and men have an opportunity to clear the wreckage. No one will be allowed inside the lines unless properly authorized, so I call on the public generally to be patient.

Thousands of volunteers are doing all they can. I appeal to the people in this hour of distress to house and feed all that need help until other arrangements can be made.

(Signed) JAMES C. DAHLMAN,
Mayor.

CHAPTER XIX

TRAGIC DAYS AFTER TORNADO

RELIEF AND SIGHT SEEING AMID RUINS OF GREAT CITY—SOLDIERS ON GUARD—STORY OF PETE, THE CANARY.

The tornado zone of Omaha was thrown open to sight-seers on Sunday, one week after the disaster, who came by the thousands and from whom contributions were expected. This move indicated cleverness of Omaha men, who realized from the start how unpopular military espionage in the afflicted district was, and after accomplishing wonders in a few days were ready to let the public in.

The visitors were forced to keep to the streets, as soldiers prevented encroachment on yards or wrecked homes. And in every block were conspicuous boxes inviting one to drop his spare change for relief of victims. With awful evidence directly before them, few of the sight-seers neglected to contribute something. Thus thousands of dollars were added to the general fund.

FUND SURPRISINGLY SMALL.

This fund, save for the large contributions of railroads and similar corporations mostly outside firms, did

not grow so fast as expected. Without the dozen or more checks from those corporations and companies, and not including appropriations from the Nebraska legislature, the Omaha municipality and school board, the aggregate was surprisingly small.

WILL AID FARMERS.

Besides a check for $1,000 from the harvester company, President Cyrus H. McCormick wrote Mayor Dahlman a letter that, to resort to the vernacular, "made a hit." Mr. McCormick, among other things, had the following to say:

"It may be a source of comfort to you and to your brave people to know that our local agent at Omaha has been requested to instruct his blockmen, canvassers and salesmen to investigate and make prompt report of suffering among farmers and to furnish immediate relief in outlying farming districts that may be neglected because lacking organized relief work. While we do not engage to cover all of this ground, we will cheerfully render such aid as we may.

"The Nebraska and Iowa farmers ever have shown such great confidence in our fairness and integrity that besides the broad sympathy that human distress must awaken in all mankind, we feel an added sense of personal obligation, of personal gratitude and friendliness toward them as individuals.

IN THE TRACK OF A TORNADO

"We will be thankful, indeed, if we can prove an instrument of substantial aid and comfort to those who suffer."

TEACHERS AID IN RELIEF.

Both the gas and electric light and street railway companies of Omaha made large cash contributions.

Saturday was a great day for the relief squad, which was augmented by 210 school-teachers, who found pitiful cases of destitution and suffering. Three families at the starving point, with sick mothers and fathers and children helpless for want of food, were among those quickly given sustenance. It is such remote and secret cases with which managers of the organization are having the most difficulty. Either pride or physical weakness, or both combined, prevent scores from getting the help that Omaha's generous people are anxious to afford.

ARRESTED AS WHITE SLAVER.

A man was jailed on a white slave charge. He is accused of trying to lure Bessie Farrell and Hazel Ford of Council Bluffs into going away with him. He wore a deputy United States marshal's badge and was threatening the sobbing girls with arrest when arrested. The watch for panders was maintained. Bush and McGrath, Chicago detectives, gave valuable assistance.

Drug fiends took advantage of the tornado. Their plan has been to solicit food and clothing as victims of the storm, sell the supplies and with the money go to a

"coke" dealer and get their "medicine." Several of the "coke" squad were observed in the extreme of the drug delights when arrested were found to have been given clothing at several of the stations.

CANARY BIRD TALES GALORE.

Just as after the San Francisco earthquake there were in circulation at Omaha a number of canary bird stories. One was sent out early in the week by various correspondents, but others waited to see just how "good" the canary yarn would get. There were twenty variations of the tale, and the latest, "absolutely" reliable was told by E. J. McVann, a local business man whose reputation for veracity is unimpeachable.

"My children loved little Peter, our canary bird," said Mr. McVann, with suspicious moisture in his eyes. "But, to tell the truth, others in the family thought it high time for Peter to pass beyond. He was so old that he could not sing, and he was possessed of only one eye. So, he wasn't very charming in appearance. But the babies loved Peter, and that's all there was to it.

ESCAPES CRUMPLED CAGE.

"My house was given an awful jarring and slapping by the tornado, and the next morning I went through it to see just what was left. In our bedroom I found an empty bird cage, twisted and crumpled. There was

no Peter, however. The cage was underneath the mattress of our bed. The bed had been knocked over and the cage must have been blown under the flying mattress and imprisoned there.

"I looked in corners, under the bed and in the closet —no Peter. Then I stood in the center of the room wondering if Peter could have flown away. The idea that Peter at last was dead came over me. How would I break the news to the children? I looked up toward the shattered bureau, and guess what I saw? On the top of the dresser, calm and owl-like, stood Peter, his head cocked on one side and the lonely eye winking a good-morning at me. Peter seemed to say, 'Well, here I am, all right and ready for breakfast.'

"He wasn't injured a bit, not a feather ruffled. How he got out of the cage is what pesters me."

A streak of humor through the tragedy that befell a number of colored men in the Idlewild Club was flashed by an undertaker, who said that in removing a coat from a darky, who had been a genial and popular fellow as well as a surprisingly good poker player, an ace of spades fell from the sleeve of the garment.

CHAPTER XX

HEROISM OF TELEPHONE GIRLS

FEMININE NATURE RESPONDS TO CALL OF DUTY—NOT EVEN DAUNTED BY OMAHA TORNADO—EXCHANGE A HOSPITAL AND MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

The switchboard in front of them dabbled with cold blood from their cut hands, one girl with a badly sprained arm, another with a gash across her face and others with bad injuries, sixteen "central" girls at the Webster Telephone exchange of Omaha stuck to their posts all night and well into the next day following the terrible storm of Easter Sunday. Others at home, knowing the wild rush of telephoning that would follow, hurried to their stations. Many of the girls, whose folks lived near the exchange, worked loyally to apprise the rest of the city of the extent of the tornado, with fear in their hearts that their own dear ones had been killed or were dying.

Because it was Sunday and a part holiday, only sixteen girls of the regular force of over thirty were at work when the tornado struck. Every window in the building was blown in, the light globes over their heads

were shattered and the little signal globes on the board in front of them were broken into sharp splinters that tortured their fingers.

With the bursting of the windows the girls with one accord fled to the basement. Several were blown from their high stools. All of them were in the shower of sharp glass from the broken windows.

The worst roar past, they returned to their stations, knowing the need of "central" by those whose relatives lived in that part of town. Miss Etta Larson, 332 South Twentieth, was in charge. "Every girl went back to her post," she said, "and soon the others came in. We were all needed. People were just wild in trying to find whether their folks were still alive." The telephone is the community "nervous system."

TRIED TO GET NUMBERS.

Tragedy followed tragedy, all silently but significantly told, as the girls tried to reach the homes of those in the stricken district. A number would be called—someone desperately trying to reach the home of a dear one, member of the family or a close relative. Central would ring the number. No one would answer. The number would be tried again. Then again and again until the one waiting would be told, "They don't answer."

"Oh, it was awful!" said Vesta Shirley, one of the central girls. "One woman begged me to keep on trying, even after I had tried the number a dozen times. 'My little baby girl was visiting there,' she said, 'can't you try them again? I was talking to them just not long ago.' Others were just like that. Some of the girls couldn't reach their own folks, and worked all night and part of the next day. Several of them were injured. That, added to the strain of anxiety, must have made it awful, but not a one of them said a word."

Miss Shirley, who lives at 3520 North Twenty-seventh, had a bad gash cut in her right arm by flying glass, but she worked all Sunday night and until nearly noon Monday, using her left hand.

Miss Addie Elliott, 4110 North Seventeenth street, was gashed across the cheek by a shattered window pane. With the blood running from the cut all over her clothes and spattering the board in front of her, she worked along with the others in answering the calls of terrified people. "It wasn't a time to quit for a little thing like that," she said. "Everybody was overworked and I just couldn't stop and leave all those scared people to stay in doubt."

Miss Grace Chipman, 1505 Ogden, was on the last board at the south end of the room when the storm struck. She was hurled from her seat to the floor and her right arm badly sprained. Despite the pain, she

worked without relief until the next morning, when a doctor called at the exchange building and cared for her injury. "It hurt some," she said, "but my! What could I do? My place was at that board answering those poor people, and I just stayed."

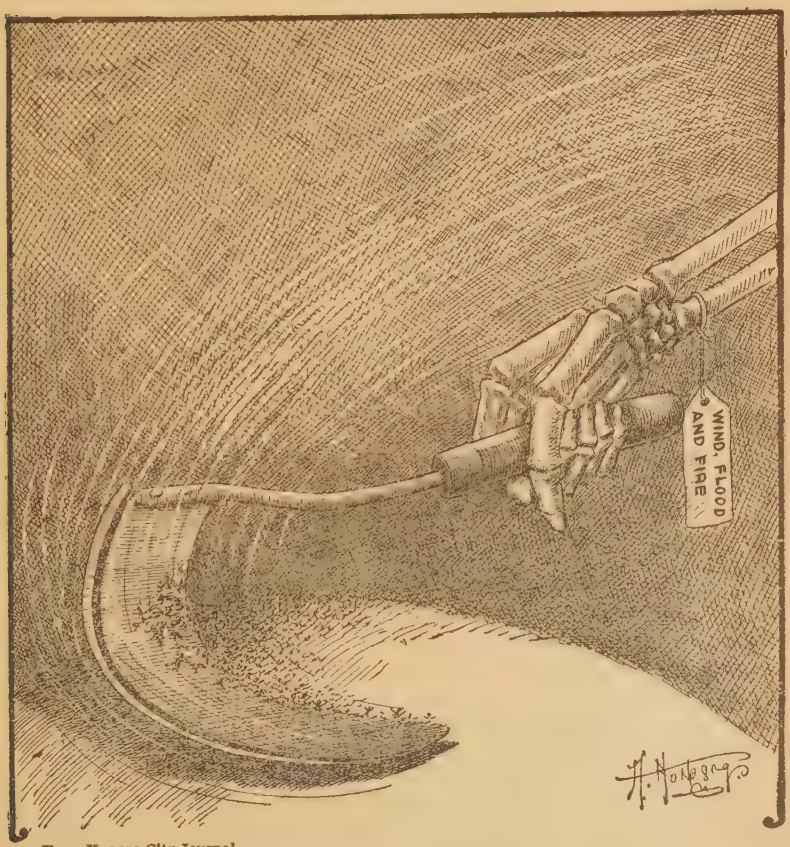
TURNED INTO HOSPITAL.

For nearly three hours the exchange room was turned into a temporary hospital and morgue. In one corner, side by side, laid three people, two men and a woman, dead from being caught under a falling building. Over a dozen injured people, many of them with serious cuts, were taken care of in the room where the girls were working. The blood from their cuts ran down the cracks in the floor and formed little puddles where the girls were forced to walk. The dark stains may be seen in the floor for many days afterward.

Other telephone operators, off duty, knew there would be a rush of calls and made their way through the debris to work. One woman, who had not been on duty at a switchboard for two years, left her 6-weeks-old baby with her parents and hurried to the exchange, working along with the others until nearly noon the next day. Most of the girls did not wait for cabs to take them to the exchange, but made their way through the storm and over the debris.

One girl was struck by a board that fell from the top of a house. She was badly bruised, but kept on her way, reported for duty and went to work.

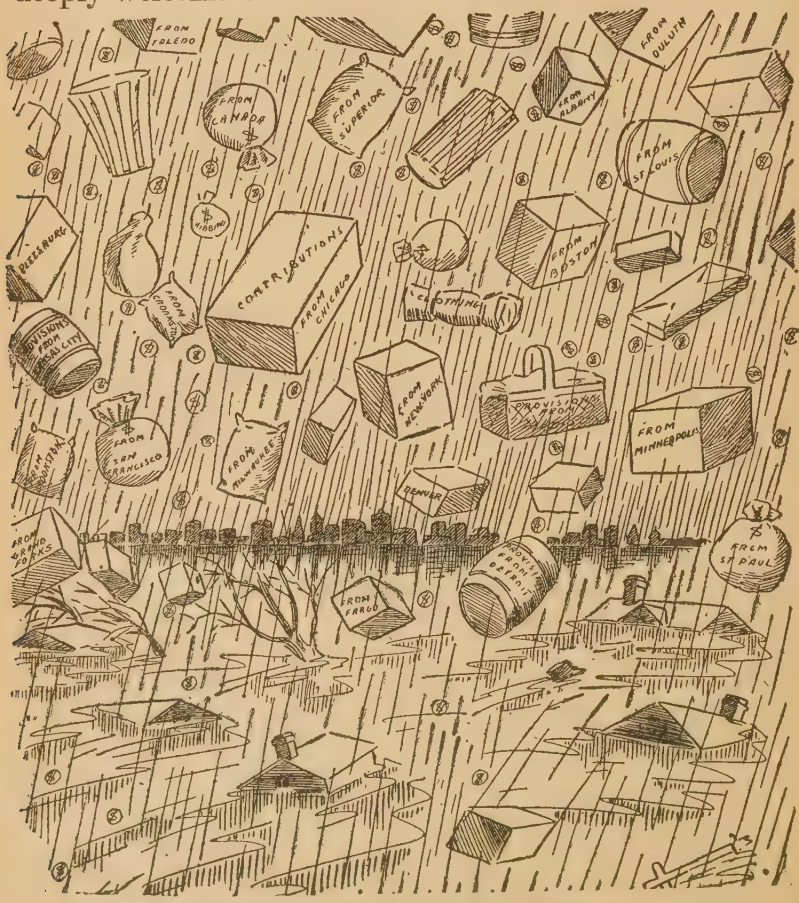
The girl's rest room in the Webster exchange has been converted into a barracks for the soldiers. The men who are guarding the property of the storm victims were placed there early Monday morning.



From Kansas City Journal

WIND, FLOOD AND FIRE
Drawn by H. Norberg

The Nebraska Telephone company cared for the girls whose homes were destroyed and who lost their personal property. Food, shelter and clothing were provided. The families of a number of the girls lived in the ruined district and the help of the company was deeply welcomed.



ANOTHER BIG STORM OVER FLOOD DISTRICT
Drawn by R. D. Handy, Cartoonist, Duluth

CHAPTER XXI

HOW TO PREVENT FLOODS

PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS AT ODDS ON QUESTION—NATIONAL VS. STATE CONTROL OF STREAMS—NATIONAL DRAINAGE CONGRESS AT WORK.

Determination or President Wilson to press a broad and comprehensive policy of river and flood control, so as to lessen the danger from floods in the Ohio region, as well as other districts, followed news of the disaster and promised a great battle in congress over the question of federal and state jurisdiction.

Statements of Secretary Lane and other cabinet members make it clear that the force of the administration was going to be thrown on the side of federal control rather than state. Control in all matters relating to water and natural resources.

The devastating floods in the Ohio-Indiana region made the question of river and flood and control highly acute in congress.

ACTION IS DEMANDED.

Public sentiment, stirred to its depths by the losses of lives and property in Ohio and Indiana, stood back

of the administration and the elements in congress that demand adequate steps be taken to afford protection against floods.

A great storage reservoir system at the headwater of the principal streams was widely advocated. There was general agreement that a large share of the flood devastation in this country, which occurs almost as regularly as the springtime comes, could be prevented by storage reservoirs.

This was advocated by the national conservation committee. Senator Newlands, chairman of the senate interstate commerce committee, favors an authorization of half a billion dollars to build such a system.

Such a storage reservoir system, according to Chief Hydrographer M. E. Leighton several years ago, estimated it would create 60,000,000 horse-power. It is estimated in most quarters that but one agency can deal effectively with flood control if it can be dealt with at all. This is the national government.

But at every turn, in the past, when the attempt has been made to broaden the authority of the federal government as to regulation over water powers, the state rights men in congress fought it bitterly.

It got down, therefore, to the one proposition. Either the administration was to abandon the idea of flood control on a scale, which would amount to anything and leave it to spasmodic efforts of scattered states, or it

would have to get out the big stick and make the fight of its life to overcome the state rights influences that for years have blocked one project after another.

WILSON'S CHANCE.

It was perfectly clear that unless the Wilson administration used all its influence to get comprehensive flood control legislation through, it could not be passed.

It was estimated that storage reservoirs would help the situation on about two-thirds of the streams and with respect to the ordinary annual floods. Such a plan could only be carried out by the federal government and the states would have to give up control over streams.

The gravity of the situation was shown by a congressman who said:

"Unless this step is taken, the clash of federal and state jurisdiction promises to be endless.

"So greatly is this question of federal power versus state representatives intensified by calamity in the Ohio valley and the threatened one in the lower Mississippi valley, that the democrat party stands in much greater danger of being torn asunder by it than by the tariff or the other great issues.

FRANCE LEADS WORK.

"Thoughtful conservationists saw this proposition coming on for solution for years. The late Dr. Magee,

who knew probably more about the waters of this country than any other, was one of the first to perceive it. He advanced the doctrine that a stream from mouth to source was an entity and should be subject to a single jurisdiction.

"In connection with the subject of flood protection, it is an interesting fact that France has done much to prevent floods by two methods. One is by reforestation at the head waters of rivers like the Seine. The other is by storage reservoirs. It was about 30 years ago that the annual flood ravages in France became so grave that scientists were set to work to study means of prevention.

The situation has been greatly helped by reforesting and storage reservoirs. Occasional floods occur, as they are bound to, in spite of all efforts of prevention, but the French methods have been found well worth while."

"The floods in Ohio and Indiana," said Philip R. Kellar, secretary of the executive committee of the National Drainage congress "are unanswerable and a heart-rendering argument to support the position of our organization that some immediate action by the national government and the states is necessary—some preventive remedies applied that will save our people, whether they live in the Ohio or the Missouri or the Mississippi or any other river valley, from the appalling results of

floods that come with varying degrees of severity year after year.

"Last year, which set a new flood record in the Mississippi valley from Cairo to the gulf, began with early spring floods in the Illinois rivers. This year it has started in the Ohio and Indiana rivers. Hundreds of lives were lost, thousands of head of live stock were drowned, and the property loss was estimated at $100,000,000 in the great floods of 1912.

MISSISSIPPI FEARS FLOODS.

"For nearly two months the residents of the lower Mississippi valley this year have been preparing for a repetition of the 1912 floods, refusing to believe the assertions of the 'do-nothings' that such a flood couldn't happen again.

"The national drainage congress was in session at New Orleans at the height of the 1912 flood, and called upon congress to take immediate action to get at the root of the trouble, and not continue its efforts to heal the disease by treating the effect.

"For a year this organization was steadily at work upon a program, calling for the creation by the United States of a national drainage commission clothed with ample powers and provided with adequate funds to devise and put into effect a comprehensive and national

plan for remedying the cause of the trouble. This platform has been placed before every member of the house of representatives, every United States senator, every governor, and most of the state officials of all the states.

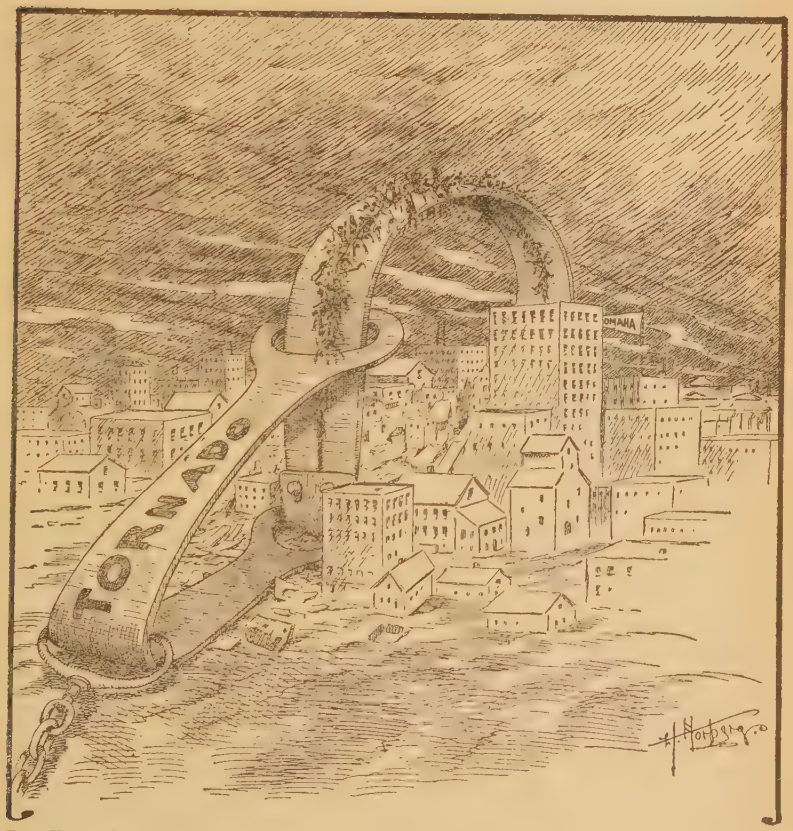
"The time has come, we believe, when we should stop counting the cost in dollars, and start to counting the cost in lives and human happiness as well, of not doing this work. And we are confident that if we count in this way we shall soon convince every politician, statesman, and layman that Uncle Sam must do this remedial work in co-operation with the states, and that he can do it, as he has completed the Panama canal after a great nation had failed.

"Loss of lives and destruction of property by floods can be prevented by the national government co-operating with the states. No one is foolish enough to imagine that we can prevent the rains from falling and the waters from rising. There is no question, though, of the ability of the nation and the states to devise a method by which the crest of such floods may be removed and the water confined to the flood channels. That is an engineering problem which can be solved, though it may take many millions of dollars.

SEE WORK FOR THE NATION.

"It is high time for Uncle Sam to undertake work of the nation. It is foolish to say that the states must do

it. The states cannot, except in co-operation with and as assistants of the nation.



From Kansas City Journal

TRAPPED BY TORNADO IN OMAHA
Drawn by H. Norberg

"Man has himself partly to blame for these floods, and he has it in his power to correct his own mistakes, in the development of this great Mississippi basin, cov-

ering two-fifths of the area of the United States, man has changed marshes and swamps and forests into farms; these, in former times, were natural storage reservoirs for excessive rainfall. Man did not provide other reservoirs nor make drainage channels—the rivers. Now he must make such provisions or get off the land he took for his farms and towns and cities, or submit to periodical disastrous overflows and floods.

"It is high time for Uncle Sam to undertake the protection of the people by providing artificial reservoirs for surplus waters in place of the natural reservoirs we have converted to other uses; by enlarging the drainage channels; and that he should undertake this work immediately, not upon the pretext of aiding navigation, but for the public welfare, the public health and upon the broad basis of humanity."

CHAPTER XXII

DIPPED FROM THE FLOOD

STORIES TOLD ON BANKS OF THE RIVERS, ON FLOATING RAFTS AND STRUGGLING BOATS, FROM LIPS OF LIFE SAVERS AND SPECTATORS—NARRATIVES THAT WILL LIVE LONG IN AMERICAN ANNALS.

Fifteen persons were killed in Mankanda, Ill., just north of Anna, in a cyclone which struck the village. A fast freight train on the Illinois Central railroad was blown from the track and 25 heavily loaded cars were dumped into the ditch.

Following the cyclone, rain falling in torrents covered the ground to a depth of three feet, washing away the contents of the cars. The loss of freight will reach $10,000. Engineer Waggoner and Fireman Andrews of Centralia were seriously injured.

SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY BOATS TO RESCUE.

The entire stock of boats of the W. H. Mullins Boat Company, of Salem, Ohio, was shipped to the flood district.

The boats, placed at the command of Governor Cox, were accepted by him to aid in the rescue work in the flood district. The shipment included 50 steel motor boats and 600 steel rowboats.

TRAINS FALL INTO STREAM.

While rushing to the aid of Pennsylvania train No. 3, which was wrecked near West Liberty, a wreck train crashed through bridge No. 91, near Urbana, shortly after the first disaster.

The wreck train's crew was composed of thirteen workmen, a majority of whom were injured.

The engine and rear sleeping car of west-bound train No. 3 plunged into Mad river at the edge of West Liberty, but the sleeping car fell at the side of the stream and the passengers crawled through the windows and waded to shore. The other six coaches of the train remained on the rails.

The two days' heavy rains had swollen the river until the bridge was swept away, just a short time before the train reached there.

Conductor Philip Ham of Springfield was swept off the front of the engine into the river, but landed on a bridge down stream. Engineer James Wood and Fireman C. E. Chilton, both of Columbus, jumped after setting the brakes and were slightly injured.

FREIGHT CREW TRIO KILLED.

A west-bound Big Four passenger train was wrecked at Hog Creek, three miles from St. Paul, Ind., and the combination baggage and smoking car was thrown into the creek. The passengers crawled through the windows and waded ashore. The wreck was due to a washout.

FREIGHT CREW TRIO KILLED.

A freight train of the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad went through a trestle at Whipple Hill, three miles from Wellington, Ohio, killing Engineer George Dyke, Daniel Shanklin, fireman, and August Burrier, brakeman.

BRAVE GIRL OPERATOR.

For forty-eight hours Miss Katherine Gilbreth, chief operator in the telephone exchange in Peru, Ind., remained at her post, marooned by from five to eight feet of water. She and her operators fished crackers and a can of ice cream out of the flood and subsisted on the meager rations they provided. With no knowledge of the fate of her mother and sister, Miss Gilbreth used all her time in trying, by means of a spare lineman's test set, to get information from Peru and the surrounding country wherever part of a telephone line

would give back reply, so that when she finally would be reached she would have information for inquirers. A lineman reached her exchange over roofs and improvised bridges a short time before the water receded enough to allow her to learn her relatives were safe. When the Record-Herald of Chicago reached Peru with its special wire, the first communication with the main part of the city, Miss Gilbreth told a graphic story of the existing flood conditions and the needs of the city.

STORIES OF DAYTON.

Investigation brought to light stories of wonderful bravery and narrow escapes.

Perilous trips around the coping of burning buildings with the yawning water of the flood below them marked the escape of thirty-four men, women and children from the flames that destroyed structures on the north side of Third street from Jefferson to St. Clair of Dayton.

When the alarm of fire was raised persons in the building rushed to the windows to seek aid in the streets. None was available, and, driven by the flames, the refugees retreated from the east and west toward the Cooper building in the center of the square, forcing their way through attic hatchways and climbing over roofs and around copings.

ROPE SAVES THIRTY-FOUR.

In this manner the Cooper building became the common place of refuge. Hemmed in on both sides, a way out was then sought across Third street. Harvey Kirkbride organized the men. Under his direction one of the party was let down with a rope to the water. He swam to the opposite side, fastened a rope cable in a street staircase and then signaled his comrades behind.

Supporting the women and children the men let themselves down from the Cooper building and struggled through the torrent-swept streets to the other side. The stairs led to safety on the upper floors. Thence the entire thirty-four made their way to an alley and across it to a place of safety. There they remained until Thursday, when they were rescued.

SOME REFUSE TO QUIT HOMES.

In that section on the east side of the Miami river and north of the Mad river at Dayton rescue work went forward with two United States life-saving crews in charge. Hundreds of people, living in upper stories, and practically without food or water, refused to leave their homes, believing they would have a better chance for safety there than elsewhere. Water and food were supplied them.

MANY DIE IN RESCUE EFFORTS.

Deeds of heroism performed at Dayton would fill a volume. It is said by the police that fully 100 lost their lives in trying to rescue others.

Two young men took out a birch bark canoe and saved thirty-two persons Tuesday afternoon. One of the boys stopped to get food and the other decided to make a trip with a green hand at the other paddle. The canoe upset in the middle of a street and both boys perished.

Two boys tried to bring Mrs. Joseph Abel, 225 Burns avenue, ashore in a punt. The boat upset and all three were drowned.

One man staggered into a relief station and asked for food. He had been working steadily for thirty-six hours and had brought 374 persons ashore. He collapsed while trying to drink a cup of coffee, and was sent to an emergency hospital.

Many men who had been in the water for hours suffered temporary paralysis of the legs and had to be carried out.

DIES AFTER SAVING.

One man on the roof of a house saw three women on the roof of an adjoining house that was being washed down street. He rescued two in a skiff and went back

New Style of Dress After the Flood at Dayton.

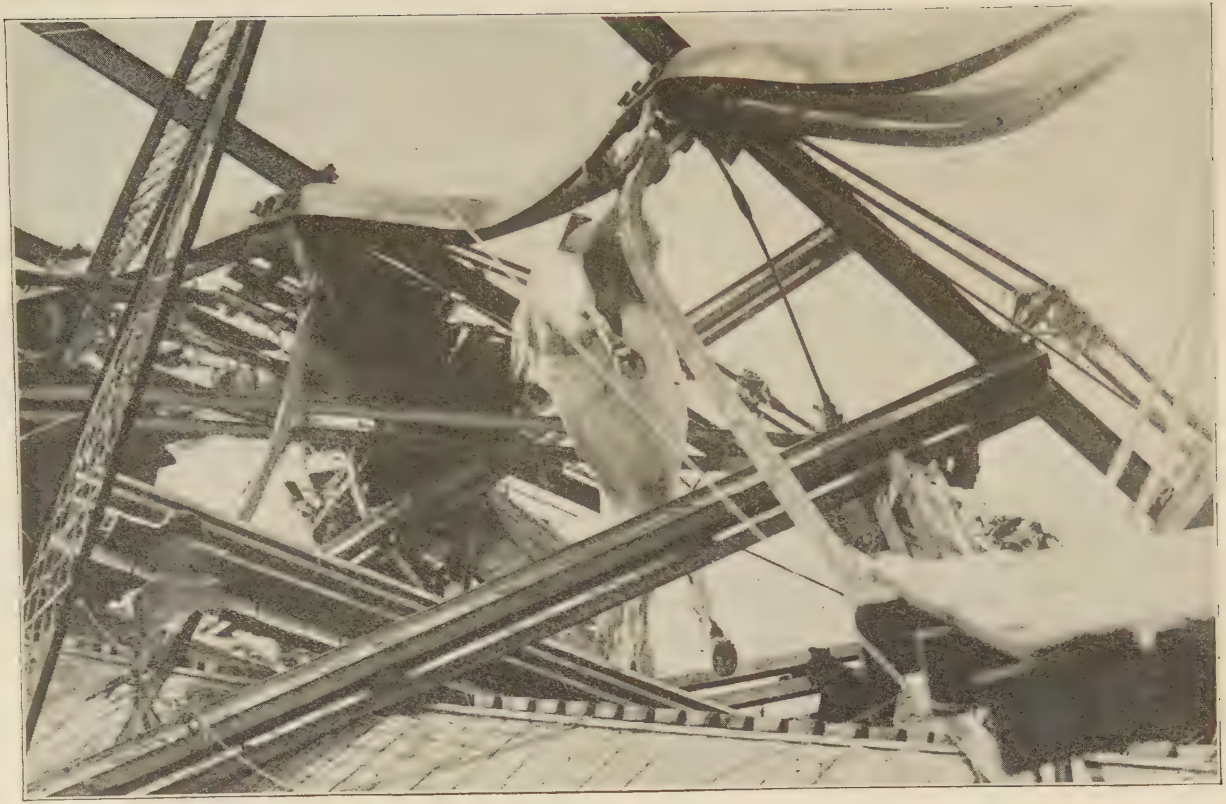
Commissary on the Street of Dayton, Ohio.

Rescuing Aged Couple at Columbus, Ohio.

Breastworks Holding Flood at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Home Floating Away on Miami River.

The Flood Receding, Leaving Desolation.



Horse Hanging Upside Down in Wreck of the Railroad Bridge.

Wind-wrecked Home at Omaha.

Typical Scene in Flood District.

Cables Used to Rescue Marooned Citizens.

Soldier Guard Over Wrecked Automobile.

Ruins of Omaha Mansions.

Home Destroyed by Tornado, Omaha.

Boys from U. S. Naval School Enroute to Floods.

Culver Academy Boys Saving Life at Logansport, Indiana.

Watervliet, New York, Submerged.

for the third, but a timber caught the craft, which upset, and both were drowned.

HAIR TURNS WHITE IN TWO DAYS.

Mrs. M. Dorfer, a young woman whose hair was black Monday night, was rescued Wednesday night. Her hair had turned white.

Many of the marooned declined to be taken ashore, deeming that they could subsist more comfortably in the second story of their homes than on shore without shelter.

Mrs. Mary Bogger, 206 Green street, 75 years old and a grandmother, was rescued Thursday.

She had a broken hip, but had refused several offers to take her ashore, believing she was better off at home, though marooned.

One elderly woman, half famished, was carried to an automobile; she carried with her a bird cage containing a canary.

SEVEN THOUSAND MAROONED IN ELEVEN BUILDINGS.

All those who had been imprisoned in the business district were liberated by Thursday, most of them walking out unaided.

Fifteen hundred had been marooned in one block since Tuesday, without food and with nothing but rain water, caught from the water spouts, to drink.

It was found that the downtown buildings housed more prisoners than had been estimated, and this fact helped to cut down the original estimate of the dead.

Fully 7,000 persons had been marooned in eleven buildings.

FLOOD IS NEARLY GONE.

A lake of tawny water four miles long and from one to two miles wide was swirling through Dayton and many of the streets were impenetrable even by the stoutest boats. The flood fell so rapidly, however, that nearly all parts of the city were accessible by Friday.

The waters still spread over the city with here and there a dry spot, but there was little current and skiffs have no trouble in venturing into all parts of the flooded area.

LOSS BY FLOOD AND FLAMES.

Attempts are being made to estimate the total damage to property at Dayton. It was placed between $15,000,000 and $25,000,000.

The loss from fire was not so large as at first feared from observations made through field glasses the night the fire started. It was estimated not to exceed $1,500,000.

As the waters receded the desolation became more marked. A fringe of people hovered at the edge of the

flooded district. Occasionally a body floated past or was pulled to shore.

Temporary morgues were established in nearly every side street, but only a few bodies were recovered.

The rush of visitors became so great that Governor Cox was forced to issue strict orders that it stop.

Notices were posted by Colonel X. Zimmerman of the Fifth Infantry, who, by order of the governor, assumed command of the troops on duty. They read:

"The citizens of this city are requested to be of service to the National Guard by remaining in their homes, or, if out on business, remaining as far as possible from the flooded district.

"No sightseers or excursionists will be allowed to disembark in Dayton. The various railroads are requested to assist in the enforcement of this measure by refusing the sale of tickets to others than those having the most urgent business in the City of Dayton.

"The strictest sanitary regulations will be enforced and citizens are requested to do their utmost to assist in this regard.

"Violators of these orders will be promptly arrested and confined until such time as they can be tried by the proper military tribunal. Thieves, looters and robbers will be dealt with summarily."

ROBBERS TO BE SHOT.

Troops responded rapidly and four full regiments of the National Guard were on duty. Soon after the catastrophe Governor Cox declared martial law.

Ghouls and vandals came on the heels of the flood, and tacit instructions were passed to the soldiers to shoot on sight all pillagers of houses and robbers of the dead.

In some instances the vandals were so bold as to originate alarms sending people to the high ground that homes might be looted more conveniently.

"Beware of thieves and burglars," said an official bulletin. "Don't leave your houses without protection. It was thieves who scared you about the reservoir and natural gas explosion. The natural gas has been turned off and there is no danger of explosions."

RELIEF COMES BY TRAINLOADS.

Toledo was the center through which the relief came. The first train service from the north into Dayton was established late Wednesday night and after that supplies came by trainloads.

Thousands were without homes and money. Every home in Dayton that was not swept away by the torrents was thrown open. Cities accessible by train threw open their homes to refugees. Springfield, for

instance, cared for thousands who managed to get out of the devastated city.

USE WAGONS FOR THREE MILES.

The task of getting in provisions and clothing, water and oil for the flood sufferers was delayed by a break in the railroad track at West Liberty, where the engine and first coach of train No. 3 on the Pennsylvania went into the Mad River last Tuesday. The washing out of the bridge entails a portage of three miles. Miles of wagons trailed over the muddy roads bearing boxes of bread and tinned meats, casks of water, life-boats from Detroit and supplies of clothing.

It looked like the commissary train of an army. Farmers from neighboring sections volunteered their services and all day and night more than 200 wagons creaked over the detour, transporting supplies for Dayton, while at intervals, companies of soldiers made the three-mile march around the gap in the railroad.

GUARD AGAINST PESTILENCE.

As the waters were drawn off the flooded area the streets were left covered with mud and slime a foot thick. Grave fear of a pestilence was entertained from the start and every precaution possible was being taken against a spread of disease.

From the Pittsburgh Post

ON A RAMPAGE

CHAPTER XXIII

TWIN INFANTS' MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

HOUSE DASHED TO PIECES—$1,000 SEALSKIN COAT SENT TO SUFFERERS BY MISTAKE—MILLIONAIRE IN BREAD LINE.

With the rapid subsiding of the flood waters and dissipating of panic among refugees at Dayton, thrilling adventures came to light. Among the most interesting of these were the experiences of the family of Charles M. Adams in Riverdale. When the flood first rushed through that section of the city Mr. Adams got his wife and 10-month-old twin girls into a skiff and took them to the home of a friend in Warder street.

An hour later it was again necessary to move and the family was taken by rescuers out of a second story window. The canoe in which they were being transported was dashed against a telegraph pole by the terrific current and capsized. Adams swam bravely in the icy water for a few minutes, when he was picked up by some men in a flat boat.

RECOVERS ALL HIS FAMILY.

Just before he was rescued he saw his wife sink for the third time. The baby girls were floating down the

street. Then he collapsed. Three hours later he regained consciousness to find himself in an attic and beside him on the floor lay his wife, whom he believed to have been drowned. A few minutes later a man crawled into the attic window from the floating roof of a barn, bringing with him the twins. They had caught in the branches of a tree and were picked off unhurt by the man, who was riding to safety on the roof. Mrs. Adams was rescued by a high school boy on a hastily improvised raft. The lad was a member of the Riverdale troop of the boy scouts and had been trained how to administer first aid to the drowning.

ONE FAMILY OF SIX IN MORGUE.

A family named Porter, six in number, lay in the Riverdale morgue today. They left their home on the outskirts of the city when warning of the flood was brought there. They were overwhelmed and drowned on the road, while the flood missed the home they had deserted. Harold Ridgley, a popular young man of Riverdale, lost his own life after saving thirteen families. In seeking to recover a lost oar his frail skiff tipped too much and sank. At the Van Cleve school building in Riverdale there was a $10,000 cook engaged in the inartistic task of making bean soup, coffee and sandwiches and superintending the distribution of the same. He was Arthur Stayne, chef of the leading hotel

of Dayton, and he composed menus of tempting savor with French names attached, or did before the deluge. The latter carried away his home and he presided over soup and sandwiches with dignity unimpaired.

SEE HOUSE DASHED TO PIECES.

Survivors recalled that shortly before noon Tuesday watchers on the hills of Dayton View, a fashionable residence section of the city, saw a frame house float from its foundations above the Dayton View bridge across the Miami. Just before the structure reached the bridge a door opened and a man was seen to look out, shading his eyes with his hand. Beside him stood a woman and behind them in the room of the cottage, appeared another woman with a baby in her arms. The watchers shouted warnings to the man to jump into the river and take a chance of being rescued. Their cries evidently were unheard. The man closed the door. A moment later the cottage crashed into a concrete pier of the bridge and was broken into bits.

SEALSKIN COAT SENT BY MISTAKE.

An amusing incident in connection with the receipt of relief supplies was a dispatch from Dr. McGrudder of Baltimore, addressed to Gen. Devine of the American Red Cross at Washington, and by him forwarded to Dayton, in which it was said that among the con-

tributions of clothing from the Maryland city was a woman's sealskin coat, valued at $1,000, which the owner's maid had included by mistake. The coat has not been found.

Among the largest contributors to the city's needs at a time when food was most precious were the hundreds of farmers near Dayton, who came to the outskirts of the city every day since the flood broke with wagon loads of milk, eggs, potatoes and other vegetables. It was due to this that the mortality among infants dependent entirely upon milk for sustenance was not so large.

MULTIMILLIONAIRE IN BREAD LINE.

In the bread line was Eugene J. Barney, a multimillionaire, whose gifts to charity have been very large and recently included $25,000 to the Y. M. C. A. of Dayton. He obtained three loaves of bread and a small sack of potatoes.

TYPICAL SCENES OF RUIN.

On the levee fronting Burns avenue a characteristic view of the havoc wrought by the flood in the residential districts was obtainable. Houses had been torn off their foundations and lay at all angles in the streets.

Trees in the boulevard, the tops of which were covered by the raging flood, were lifting mud-covered

branches above the water. Some of the houses that drifted off their foundations turned over on their sides, others were nothing but masses of smashed timbers.

Into this debris men pushed their skiffs and peered into second-story windows in search of victims.

In Wayne avenue a three-story house was deposited squarely across the street. Everywhere was evidence of the freaks played by the torrent.

Measurements showed that the depth of the flood at Third and Main streets, the heart of the city, was nine feet. On Main street, the Leonard building was in ruins. It collapsed when its foundations were undermined.

Owing to the lack of wire service in the region devastated by the flood it was a week before any one could give a comprehensive story of the Dayton flood. Correspondents who got into the stricken city on the first relief trains went to Toledo to file their dispatches. On the way out they met an army of correspondents from eastern publications just going in.

TELLS HOW FLOOD ARRIVED.

Dayton is half encircled by a girdle of levee-banked rivers. It lies at the conjunction of the Miami, the Stillwater, and the Mad rivers and Wolf Creek. The water had been high for a week and more, but even

Tuesday morning at 5 o'clock it was not thought the situation was menacing.

The alarm was sounded, however, and residents of the low lying sections were warned to seek shelter on the high ground. The only district which complied measurably with this advice was Riverdale. In other sections little attention was paid to the warning.

At 7 o'clock the water was still rising and many men and women gathered on the levee to watch the sight. At 9 o'clock the levee at the waterworks in the south part of the city gave way with a roar.

LOOSENS 10-FOOT WATER WALL.

Spectators say that a wall of water ten feet high rushed down. Many saw the advancing wave and were able to find refuge in buildings.

The waters advanced so rapidly that a laborer in one of the coal yards started to run to high ground, but before he had gone a block the flood was above his waist.

Within an hour the water was nine or ten feet in the business section and 17,000 were marooned in the downtown buildings.

The water rose steadily until 10 o'clock at night, when the crest of the wave passed.

Three large oil tanks burst, flooding the flood with a surface of oil.

The water rushed through the streets with the velocity of a mill race, sweeping buildings off their foundations and submerging the tops of trees.

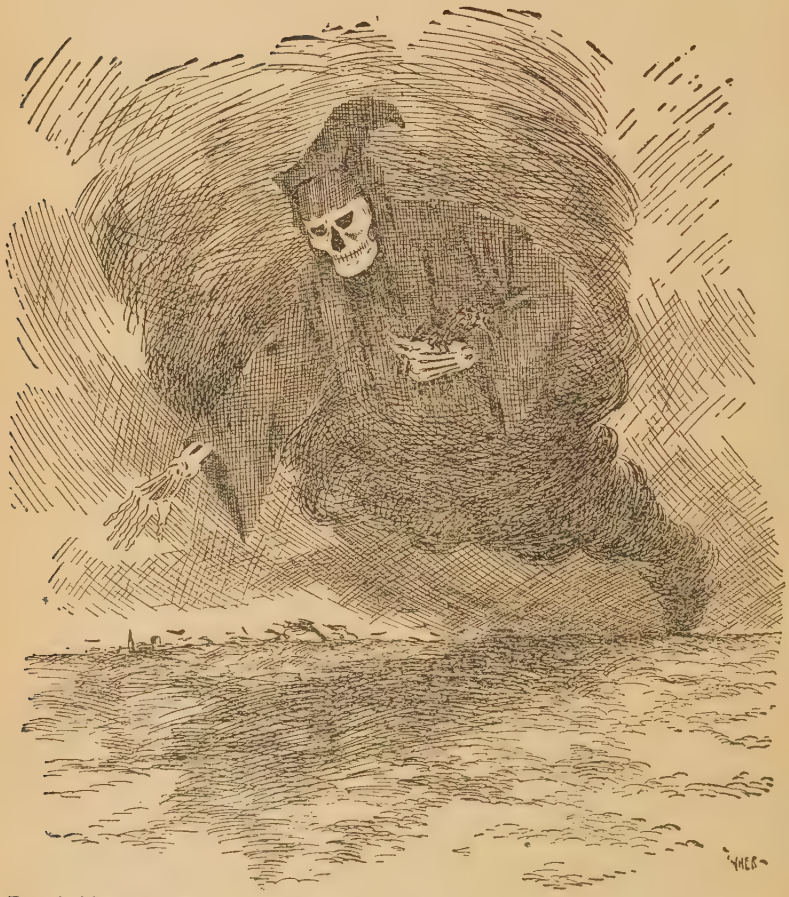
In some of the lowest-lying sections the water was thirty-five feet deep and people were forced to take refuge on the tops of houses.

At that time the water covered an area of twelve square miles.

SOURCE OF FLOOD A MYSTERY.

The breaking of the water power dam, it is urged by many who have studied the question, would not release the enormous quantity that flooded the city. The theory was that the flow was increased either by a break in one of the reservoirs in the Miami Valley or by an overflow. To the north of the city are three great artificial lakes used as feeders for the old Miami and Erie Canal.

The Celina, or Grand, reservoir in Auglaze and Mercer counties is said to be the largest artificial body of water in the world. It is more than twelve miles long and covers 17,500 acres. To the northeast is the great Lewiston reservoir in Logan county, while to the west of this is the Laramie reservoir. Both the Celina and Lewiston reservoirs were patrolled during the flood, and no break has occurred in either.



From the Pittsburgh Post

THE TORNADO

CHAPTER XXIV

FLOODS ON OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI

WATERS FROM NORTH FILL GREAT RIVERS—NAVAL RESERVES AND NATIONAL GUARDSMEN HASTEN TO RESCUE — EARTHQUAKES ARE FELT — NATURE ON A RAMPAGE.

As floods receded in Ohio and Indiana rains came in more southern portions and the volume of water menaced Ohio and Mississippi river towns, many of which were wrecked and ruined the year before by a great flood. Men patrolled levees and governors of states ordered out regiments of national guardsmen and train loads of men with sand bags and shovels hastened to strengthen the earthen walls that held back the floods.

The Ohio river at Cairo, Ill., rose more than 55 feet. The levee is fifty-five feet high, and it is weighted down with sandbags for two feet additional.

Traffic on the interurban road out of river towns was stopped on Sunday. Water swept over the top of the levee at Bird's Point, Mo., laying waste a large section of southern Missouri.

MEN ON LEVEE DOUBLED.

The number of workmen strengthening the Cairo levees was doubled and the city took every precaution to hold back the flood.

Four companies of the Illinois national guard—those from Mount Vernon, Newton, Sullivan and Olney—were the first to arrive, under command of Colonel Ryman of Effingham. Crowds of refugees from southeastern Missouri arrived in Cairo to add to the stampede.

The Cairo executive flood committee sent an appeal to President Wilson asking for aid for Cairo and towns near by.

MESSAGE SENT TO PRESIDENT.

The message in substance follows:

"The worst flood ever known in the Ohio valley and the Mississippi is now expected. All previous high water records at Cairo south may be broken in a few days. We are making every effort in our power to take care of local situation, but the river communities near us should have assistance. Boats, sacks, food and other supplies are needed. May we not have the help of your great office for this district or is it necessary to wait until property and possibly lives are lost before aid can be obtained from the Washington government?"

Chicago militiamen were called out on Sunday, March 30, and left for Cairo, Ill. Danger of levees giving way at that point and at Shawneetown, Ill., if the Ohio river rises much higher alarmed the inhabitants and a call to Governor Dunne for troops to keep order resulted in the hasty departure of the "fighting 7th." Part of the regiment left the city about 4 a. m. and the remainder at 11 o'clock.

The Illinois naval reserves left in the morning to help in the southern Illinois city. The 7th was commanded by Col. Daniel Moriarty and the reserves by Capt. E. A. Evers.

MORIARTY GOES WITH VANGUARD.

Difficulty in assembling the troops at the armory in response to the hurry call delayed the departure and it was nearly 4 a. m. when the first body of guardsmen got away from the city. The men marched from the armory to the Thirty-first street Illinois Central station, where they entrained. Colonel Moriarty and his staff were with the first detachment.

ROUND UP SCATTERED OFFICERS.

When the telephones began to work, as Captain Morton and some of his aids endeavored to reach the other officers of the regiment it was discovered that

many were not at home. Those at the armory kept the wires busy, however, and as rapidly as possible assembled most of the officers and more than half of the regiment. Orders were left for the balance to follow on a special train, and the first detachment wasted no time in getting to its train.

At 10 o'clock Sunday night Colonel Moriarty made arrangements with the Illinois Central railroad for special trains to convey the troops to the southern part of Illinois. Arrangements for the transportation of the baggage also were made and teams were engaged for the moving.

Members of the regiment were scattered from Lake Forest to South Chicago and from the lake to the western city limits.

Captain Evers of the naval reserves took a thirty-five foot steam launch, which was carried on a flatcar, and four other launches, powerful vessels well calculated to withstand the force of the flood. Ninety men left with the boats.

Four companies of the Fourth Illinois, nearer the danger point, also were ordered south.

The governor remained in the executive chamber in the capitol in almost constant telephone communication with Chicago as well as with Mayor Parsons of Cairo, Sheriff Fraser of Alexander county and others near the levee.

EARTHQUAKES ADD TO PANIC.

Never in the history of the country did the elements play such tricks. With stories of flood and fire and tornadoes came reports of earthquakes. Scientific men predicted earthquakes on the day the flood broke and they came a week later.

At Washington, D. C., on March 31, an earthquake of unusual intensity was registered on the seismograph at Georgetown university. The principal tremor occurred at 11:35, although the quakes lasted from 11:01 to 12:30 the next morning. The disturbance, apparently, was between 6,000 and 7,000 miles from Washington.

QUAKE HITS BEHRING STRAITS.

The seismograph at St. Louis recorded an earthquake of unusual violence on the night of March 30, at a point estimated to be 4,200 miles away. The shock was most severely felt in Behring Straits. It traveled southeast. Six main waves, the first of which was recorded at 9:51 p. m., were followed by three secondary waves, the last of which was recorded at 11:12 p. m. The maximum vibration took place at 10:10 p. m.

From the Pittsburgh Post

SCIENCE BAFFLED

CHAPTER XXV

MILITARY ACADEMY BOYS TO THE RESCUE

YOUNG SAILORS AND SOLDIERS FROM CULVER SCHOOL ON LAKE MAXINKUCKEE HASTEN TO FLOOD DISTRICTS—GREAT TRIP OF WARSAW BOAT CLUB OVER FIELDS AND FENCES—GIRLS FOUND IN TREE TOPS—REAL ADVENTURES SURPASS FICTION.

Culver Naval and Military cadets, when they returned from their rescue work at Logansport, Ind., brought stories of the bravery of the shivering sufferers. Fifteen hundred persons were taken from flooded houses to places of safety by the cadets, who handled their cutters in the fierce currents of the Wabash, which made a river of every cross-street of the town.

Fences and twisted masses of wires hampered the rescue, but the cadets proved equal to their heroic task.

Through the roof of one small house two women were released from a dark attic, where they had sat for forty-eight hours, without food, drink, bedding or light, and all the time ignorant of what was going on outside their prison.

Several mothers and new-born babies were rescued by the hospital corps, whose members lifted them in blankets into the big cutters in which they were taken to ambulances at the water's edge. For one sufferer who complained that her feet were cold, a jug of hot coffee in the cutter served as a hot water bottle.

An old man who had been dragged out of an attic window insisted that he be taken to feed his horse.

An industrious hen was found perched on a second-story window ledge, where she had just laid a contribution to the household food.

The horrors of Ohio and Indiana floods were brought closer home to other cities when refugees began to arrive at homes of friends. Improved train connections from the affected districts enabled hundreds of refugees to escape the flooded district. Many pitiful stories of privations endured and ruin in prospect were told by arrivals to the newspaper men who thronged every railroad station and met each incoming train.

There were scores of affecting scenes as the engines puffed noisily into the terminals and the passengers alighted from the coaches. Men and women rushed into each other's arms, children were seized in warm embraces and kissed half to death, and many tears of joy were shed as the flooded districts gave up to anxious watchers relatives from whom no word has been received for days.

THREE BRIDEGROOMS DROWNED.

J. W. Kreamer, a railway postal clerk running between Chicago and Marion, Ohio, over the Erie Road, had perhaps as interesting a story to tell as any one. Mr. Kreamer stood beside a farmer Thursday afternoon on the edge of the flooded district adjoining Peru and watched three young bridegrooms go to their death in a stolen boat.

"The farmer and I were talking, near a wagon on which his boat was lying," said Mr. Kreamer. "I had tried to bargain with him to row me over to Peru, as my wife's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bowman, were marooned there. The farmer, whose name was Oliver Wilson, refused to take me over, because he said the boat wasn't safe.

"While we were talking, a few hundred feet from the wagon, three young men ran up. They had been making their way over the muddy roads from an interurban, which stopped its cars three miles away.

"We heard them shout gladly as they saw the boat and before we could reach them they had taken the craft from the wagon, set it in the water, shipped their oars and embarked.

FARMER SHOUTS WARNING.

"'Come back, come back,' cried Wilson, as we ran toward them. 'You will all be drowned.' They shouted that they could take care of themselves and rowed out into the current. They hadn't gone a city block when their boat struck a submerged fence post or tree and was torn apart. One of the men disappeared under the water, but the other two hung on to the fragments of the boat and were swept along a hundred feet or more in the current. Then they lost their grip and sank after trying in vain to swim.

"On the run into Chicago I learned that these men were brakemen on the Chesapeake and Ohio. They had been married about six months ago, within two weeks of each other, and their cottages stood side by side in that part of Peru now under water. They had gone to Akron, Ind., on the Erie milk train in the morning and were trying to reach their brides when they were drowned. I found lots of the men on the road who knew them, but we have not been able to identify them by name.

GETS TO MAROONED RELATIVES.

Mr. Kreamer, after this experience, succeeded in getting a boat and an oarsman, who rowed him to with-

in a block of where his father-in-law and mother-in-law were marooned.

"They wouldn't let us go any closer," he asserted. "An armed patrol was thrown about the town, keeping out every one but relief workers. My relatives, I learned, were on Smith Island, one of the only two spots in Peru which at that time were out of water. Smith Island, comprising perhaps an acre and a half of ground, having on it only four houses, was populated by about 1,200 persons—men and women and children.

"I think the refugees there were in better shape than at the courthouse, for there are some wells on Smith Island. While I was there a number of farmers' boats with milk cans and food aboard were rowed in as far as the courthouse."

"And when the milk got there," broke in C. W. Helms and Walter C. Thomas, who were standing near by listening to Kreamer's story, "there was an awful time. We were at the courthouse, having escaped in a boat after about thirty-six hours of it.

DISTRIBUTE FIRST MILK.

Mr. Helms told the story of his and Thomas' escape, and of the scenes that attended the distribution of the first milk. Thomas was a nervous wreck and shuddered as he listened to his companion's account of the horrors they had endured together.

"They ordered an armed guard to supervise the distribution of that first milk, which was a welcome as the manna described in the Bible." said Helms. "The women fought to get more than a share for their babies, but it was necessary to have a fair distribution, and that was about a gill to each person. Many men gave up their share to women with babies. Later, before we left, plenty of provisions had arrived, and we only came away because we were anxious to get to Chicago. We made the trip back to town on a relief train that had been sent in from Chicago by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, and that brought plenty of food for a day or two at least."

This Chesapeake and Ohio relief train was in charge of T. H. Gurney, district passenger agent of the road, with headquarters in Chicago.

TELLS OF RELIEF TRAIN.

"We started the train at 10:30 o'clock Thursday morning, flashing word ahead by wire that it was on its way," said Mr. Gurney. "At Hammond we took on a big supply of bread, donated by the townspeople, who said they also had a cash fund of $1,000 to be used later for the sufferers. All down the line into Peru we found wagon-loads of clothes and food which the farmers had hauled into the stations for shipment on our train.

"At Griffith, Merrillville, Beatrice, La Crosse, North Judson, Kewanna, Twelve Mile, Fulton and Hoovers we loaded on eggs, groceries, poultry, milk and clothing. The people gave willingly and said if we needed more it would be forthcoming. At Lake Bruce we loaded a lot of rowboats on to a flat car.

"We ran to within two miles of the Peru depot, when we found 500 feet of track washed out. We made a foot bridge, however, and transferred the supplies to a string of flat cars, with a Wabash engine attached. The food was hauled into town and we started back. Only Helms and Thomas came back with us, although on the trip down we had taken about eight of our employes anxious to get to their families in Peru."

BRINGS NEWS OF CHICAGOANS.

While Mr. Gurney was describing the experiences of the relief corps there staggered into the offices an unkempt, wild-eyed man, with a three-day growth of beard on his face and mud smeared all over his shoes and trousers. His clothes were in rags.

"Hello, Carl," shouted somebody in the office, and in a minute the stranger was the center of an excited group of railroad men. It was learned that he was Carl Decker of Chicago, a brakeman on the Chesapeake and Ohio's star train, the Old Dominion flyer. The

eastbound Old Dominion, with Decker aboard, left Chicago Monday morning and got as far as Webster, Ind., where it was stalled.

The passengers were taken in automobiles to Richmond, where they were sheltered safe and well cared for in a hotel. They were unable to get East or West. The westbound Old Dominion, due in Chicago at 2:30 o'clock on Monday afternoon, was stalled for five days at Converse, Ind., with washouts on both sides, but the passengers are safe and well cared for. Decker brought this information, and then told the story of his own journey to Chicago.

TELLS STORY OF ESCAPE.

"Like those three poor fellows who were drowned near Peru, I am a bridegroom," said Decker, "and after I had been shut up in that Richmond hotel for nearly three days I decided to get to Chicago and my wife if I had to swim for it. I left Richmond Wednesday morning on foot.

"After walking about ten miles I came across a lot of water and I stole a boat, which I rowed for about six miles. Then I came to a stretch of the tracks of the Pennsylvania Road and I got a lift of about twenty miles on a work train. I borrowed a horse from a farmer, who took my word that I would leave it with

his brother, about eight miles down the road. I left the horse there, and the brother told me if I walked about five miles more I could get another Pennsylvania work train. I found that train and got another lift.

"All told, I guess I walked about seventy miles and rode on the Pennsylvania five times and used one horse and two boats. At last I got to Rochester, where I caught the Erie and came straight into Chicago.

"The passengers on the two stalled Old Dominion trains had a great time. They had plenty to eat and lived like a company on shipboard, with games to pass away the time."

FLEES IN BOAT.

Another Chicagoan who had an experience similar to Decker's was Harry Brinkerhoff, a traveling salesman. Dressed in rubber boots, blue shirt and a mud-stained traveling suit, Brinkerhoff arrived from Peru, Ind., in the afternoon, after being three days and two nights on the road.

"I went to Peru Sunday on business," said Mr. Brinkerhoff, "and was to leave Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock. When I awoke I looked out of the window and found the city was covered with several inches of water. I watched the waters as they climbed slowly inch by inch.

"Then I left the hotel and went to the courthouse, covering the distance by boat. Men, women and children were crowded together. There was no room for any to sit down, and no one made any attempt to keep the place clean. They were too tired and frightened to care.

"I left the courthouse Tuesday night in a boat which some one had left, and started on my way down the river to some point—I did not know just where. I had been in many flood experiences before, having lived along the Red River for several years, and knew how to handle a boat in the swift running stream.

BODIES FROZEN IN TREE.

"All Tuesday night and part of Wednesday I was tossed about on those waters. I saw bodies float by me, intermingled with trees and ruins of the houses. About three miles out of Peru I passed under a tree in which were the bodies of two girls, frozen. As I passed I reached up with one of my oars and tried to jar them loose, but they were frozen too tight.

"At another place I passed under a bridge. A house was lodged against it. The waters were so high I could look into the windows of the upper story. There I saw the bodies of a man, a woman and two children. In the same room were the bodies of several pigs and other live stock.

"The only time I was in real peril was when I was passing under a railroad bridge. Here rapids had formed over the debris, and I was forced to lie flat in the boat and let it shoot past. The gunwales scraped the bottom of the bridge flooring and the boat whirled in the eddies, but did not capsize. I got to Logansport safely, and by a series of boat rides, 'hikes' and wagon rides reached Plymouth, Ind., where I took the train for Chicago."

SCHOOLBOYS AS HEROES.

Heroism of young men of Warsaw, Ind., first to respond to Peru's telegraphic cry for help, saved the lives of hundreds of persons. Members of the Warsaw Boat Club, many of them high school pupils, launched eighty boats, steered them through the flood to Peru and with the aid of citizens established the two havens at Smith Island and the courthouse, then carried the people to them.

Lawrence Gannon, an employe of the Michigan Central, who was visiting relatives in Peru, told how they rescued him with hundreds of others.

"There was one message for help sent from Peru before the wires went down and that was received at Warsaw," said Gannon. "Scores of the boys there got together and they must have assembled quickly, for their boats, eighty of them, with the boys pulling as if

in a boat race, shot into the streets of Peru while the people were struggling in the water.

"Those boys kept up a constant boat patrol from the houses to the courthouse and the other island. I was standing in the second story of a house when they rowed up and got me. They picked people out of the stream."

From Pittsburgh Sun

A COUNTRY-WIDE APPEAL

CHAPTER XXVI

NATION SPRINGS TO RELIEF

SOLDIERS CALLED TO FIGHT WATERS—SECRETARY OF WAR ENTERS FLOOD ZONE—DEAD ANIMALS LITTER STREETS.

The national guardsmen of Ohio and Indiana were ordered out. President Wilson directed Secretary of War Garrison to proceed to the Ohio flood district and he was able to co-ordinate the relief forces by the power of his office.

Food and clothing and money from all parts of the country was hastily collected and loaded upon cars. From far distant Haiwaii came contributions by cable.

For days the need for assistance was felt in many places. Store keepers and other business men found their stocks ruined with no chance of recovery and men well-to-do were plunged into poverty. However long time credit by wholesalers enabled such merchants to continue their business and to feed and clothe the people.

After the flood swept through Ohio and Indiana they found their way to the Ohio and on the Sunday following the tornado cries for help came from Ohio and Mississippi river towns. Governor Dunne of Illi-

nois directed companies of the national guard to proceed to the river with car loads of bags which filled with sand were used to strengthen and repair the levees.

While men were shown to be powerless in the face of such a demonstration of the elements, the powers of civilization to relieve were manifested in a remarkable way. Strange as it may seem thousands of people found the flood an actual benefit. Poor people most always live in the lowlands, because the possibility of floods makes land cheaper there. These poor districts were hit the hardest and men out of work and barely living, with their families, found upon being rescued that they were provided with fine clothing from homes of rich people and for once they had ample food and no fear of the morrow. But those working people who have saved money and bought little homes on the cheap lowlands saw their savings wiped out in one night and they faced the discouraging problem of again saving sufficient to rebuild their small shelters.

CHAPTER XXVII

OTHER GREAT FLOODS

STORIES OF JOHNSTOWN AND GALVESTON—TWO CITIES WIPED OUT BY GREAT WALLS OF WATER.

Two other disastrous floods of modern times were those at Johnstown, Pa., and at Galveston, Texas. Each of these disasters were confined to one locality and the horror was limited, but in the tornado and flood of 1913 hundreds of towns and cities and thousands of farm neighborhoods were included and the horror extended from New England to the Rocky Mountains.

JOHNSTOWN FLOOD.

The Johnstown flood, May 31, 1889, was caused by the bursting of the great reservoir of Lake Conemaugh, two and a half miles long, and a mile and a half wide and one hundred feet at its greatest depth. The great wall of water swept down the beautiful Conemaugh valley, destroying Johnstown and all its suburbs. Fire completed the destruction. The loss of life was 2235 and the property destroyed was estimated at $10,000,000.

The dam which held back the waters of the Conemaugh reservoir had been pointed to as a menace for ten years before it finally gave way.

WARNING GIVEN.

Messengers were dispatched to Johnstown to warn the inhabitants, but the messengers were only half believed. Already, from a log boom that had come down earlier in the day from another creek, the streets of Johnstown were knee deep in water, but comparatively few residents took that warning seriously and went with their families to the hills. When it became certain that the dam was going, an engineer named Parks mounted a fast horse and rode to Johnstown, 18 miles away, crying the danger as he rode through the valley.

At three o'clock the whole center of the dam gave way for 300 feet in width. Trees, rocks and earth bounded into the air. A great flood of water, half a mile wide and 40 feet high, rushed down the valley. It caught up Mineral Point. It tore down upon East Conemaugh, where the Pennsylvania railroad had its yards, and demolished every house. Engines weighing 20 tons were picked up like chips and made to serve the will of the flood as battering rams.

The Galveston flood occurred Sept. 8, 1900. Within a period of five hours, but chiefly between 7 and 9

o'clock that night, 6000 lives were lost and property, including 7000 buildings, valued at $18,000,000, was destroyed.

A West Indian hurricane, lasting 18 hours, the wind veering in every direction and reaching a maximum velocity estimated at 135 miles an hour, swept over the city. Streets were flooded to a maximum depth of 16 feet above mean low tide. The gulf of Mexico was hurled upon the fated city.

LEFT THE CITY A RUIN.

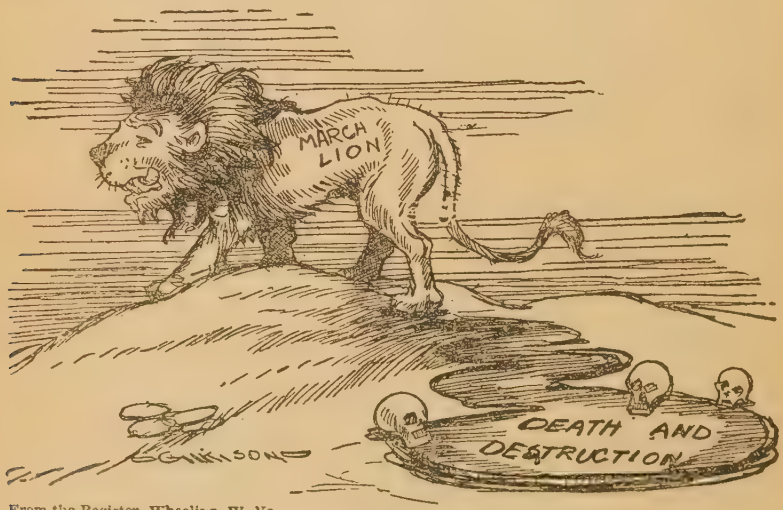
The tidal wave swept the buildings from their frail, sandy foundations. Many of those which resisted the force of the waters were thrown down by the furious winds. Throughout the night of Sept. 8 Galveston was a seething sea. The next day came the slow subsidence of the waters, the hurricane meanwhile having swept onward to wreak its havoc in other regions.

Almost all of the residence part of the city was in ruin. Much of the business quarter was irretrievably destroyed. The piers were washed away, shipping was driven upon the beach or hurled out into the gulf and sunk. Warehouses, churches, schools, bridges, docks, railroad stations, the tracks of the railroads in many instances, with locomotives and cars, hovels and mansions, the homes of the low and the high indiscriminately were

blotted out, and over a considerable part of the city all landmarks were obliterated.

GREATEST AMERICAN CATASTROPHE.

Galveston's most serious of all losses was its loss of life. The destruction of property in the city and its suburbs was $30,000,000. This is exceeded by the property loss in the big Boston fire of 1872, which was $80,000,000. It is far below the destruction of property in the Chicago conflagration of 1871, which was $190,000,000. But in loss of life the Galveston catastrophe far surpassed all the other calamities which ever occurred in the United States up to the storm and flood of March 1913.



From the Register, Wheeling, W. Va.

LEAVING A BLOODY TRAIL
Drawn by T. V. Gilkison

CHAPTER XXVIII

"CENTRAL"—JUST A GIRL, BUT THE REAL NEW HEROINE OF MODERN LIFE

THE GREAT OHIO FLOOD UNCOVERS AN UNDISCOVERED FORCE FOR BRAVERY AND TEACHES US HOW VALUABLE OUR "HELLO-GIRLS" ARE.

TRIBUTE TO HEROINES OF THE FLOOD.

By Mary Boyle O'Reilly.

A memorable cause for pride amidst the heartrending hardships of the western floods is the quiet courage of the telephone girls.

Where torrents unloosed by northern watersheds swept swift destruction through unprotected lowlands the plea of a stricken people could be voiced only through "central."

Telegraph companies acknowledged the worst prostration in their history, railways were paralyzed throughout the flood zone. In scores of isolated towns of the Scioto, Muskingum and Miami valley an overwhelmed community's hope for relief centered on a lonely girl!

In time of peace the operators who sit at the switchboard hear life sweep by—ignoring their existence. The gay greetings, the eager plans for pleasuring do not include them.

But in the hour of crisis, ah, then we consider "central"—grateful to find her clear-headed in calamity, capable of coping with catastrophe, efficient to aid victims who will escape, if at all, by fractions of minutes.

"Don't ask me who the dead are," answered "central" at Chillicothe, switching and relaying tales of destruction and desolation.

"Don't ask me who the dead are. Now we must think only of the people who are still alive."

All down the Ohio valley little towns escaped Titanic tragedies because girl operators stood by their switchboards. As Logansport was cut off came a last brave word on behalf of flood refugees marooned on the hilltop. At Dayton an intrepid "central," working in the dark—for gas mains were gone—cheered the thousands in business buildings with news of speedy rescue.

In Peru a quick-witted "central" telephoned warning after warning against the on-rushing danger.

At St. Marys, when the grand reservoir broke and inundated the town, "central" stood waist deep in the flooded office to telephone Fort Wayne of the tragedy.

Hamilton and Fremont and Columbus swept by

yellow, swirling seas were comforted by bulletins of lives saved and relief trains already on their way.

The brave reports give no hint of conscious self-sacrifice or heroism. Apparently each "central" was instinctively loyal to her job. Five telephone operators trapped by the crest of the flood in Zanesville's exchange worked steadily through eerie days to the detonation of falling buildings and the light of burning structures.

"The river swept like a great wind through the city," telephoned Miss Arline Barnett, "but already the waters are receding. The worst is over. We are thankful to be alive. Send us medicine and food."

Girl prisoners who watched buildings collapse in torrents of unimaginable fury and victims whirled away on drifting housetops yet kept courage to voice brave news to homeless sufferers!

We know them now, UNNAMED BUT NOTABLE—the switchboard girls who think and work. Their calm in the midst of calamity promises a new element of safety and gives a new reason for considering "central."

From the Pittsburgh Post

RIDING THE CREST OF THE FLOOD

CHAPTER XXIX

FIGHTING ON THE LEVEES

OHIO RIVER TOWNS AIDED BY SOLDIERS STRUGGLE TO KEEP STREAM WITHIN BANKS—THOUSANDS OF HOMES SUBMERGED—PEOPLE LIVE IN WOODS—BUSINESS SUSPENDED—RAILROADS TIED UP.

Alarming breaks in the Big Four levee, just beyond the outskirts of Cairo, roused the inhabitants to intense excitement. The seepage in all parts of the town became greater than before and a keener realization of the threatened catastrophe possesses the military inside the limits.

Traffic on the main line of the Illinois Central railroad was paralyzed because of a washout of the tracks between Cairo Junction and the Cache river, in the drainage district. The water went over the tracks in the early morning of Monday, March 31st and Tuesday, April 1st, with the result that the Seminole limited from St. Louis and the Panama limited from Chicago were unable to pass.

SUBMERGED FOR FOUR MILES.

The stretch of submerged property is about four

miles long. Several hundred feet of track were washed out.

Preparations for the flood, which was inevitable went forward in the doomed city. The ring of pick and spade was heard all along the line of the sea wall as the troops from Chicago, the "Fighting Seventh," and their associates from other points of Illinois, with the Illinois naval reserves from Chicago, toiled at strengthening the levee throughout its length.

WHOLE CITY IS PICKETED.

That the militia officers fully realize the immediate danger was shown when Col. Daniel Moriarty, leader of the 7th regiment and in charge of all the troops in Cairo, practically placed the city under military rule. Although no actual declaration of martial law was announced, picket lines were thrown out and more than 300 soldiers patrolled the streets. It was stated frankly that the reason for this was the desire to inspire fear among persons said to be in the town for the purpose of looting homes left unprotected by people who have fled the city. Col. Moriarty feared a reign of terror among the citizens when the actual flood came. In order that there would be no delay at the eleventh hour, boats were commandeered and moored close to the levees.

Nights of the terrible week the levees were alight

with the camp fires of the soldiers. Along the sea wall, with swinging lanterns, strode officers searching for traces of a rupture in the clay and concrete structure. Knots of officers stood in groups and discussed the situation or glanced curiously at the captain's cabin of the Henry Marquand, a river packet, in which Col. Moriarty has established his headquarters.

SCENE IN THE BOAT'S CABIN.

The way to the high perched military office was a devious one and involved much climbing of planks, narrow stairways and railings. In the middle of the little cabin, surrounded by a miscellany of curios collected by the captain of the Henry Marquand, sat Col. Moriarty. He had impressed a reporter for a Chicago newspaper and was dictating to him rapidly as the rest of the detachment entered. The reporter sat at a typewriter, mounted on a box and pounded away in the murky light of two ship's lanterns.

The first serious break in the Big Four levee occurred at 6 p. m., Tuesday, April 1st, when, with a rush, a section of the masonry gave away about two miles outside of the city and allowed a torrent to surge into the low lying section known as the drainage district—a tract of about 9,000 acres. All inhabitants of the valley had been warned hours before. The water reached a

depth of several feet in the area and had the effect of temporarily relieving the strain on the rest of the levee farther south. Minor breaks occurred and the seepage continued to increase, with the result that many persons who intended to "stick it out" weakened and began to make inquiries relative to train time.

CHICAGO FIRMS REPRESENTED.

Among the firms who have offices or lumber yards in the drainage district are Sears, Roebuck & Co., of Chicago and the Chicago Mill and Lumber company.

A strange parade was held Tuesday when 100 militiamen marched through the thoroughfares in charge of nearly 600 colored men, whom they had dragged from their homes to act as laborers. The negroes had not responded to the call for help and had to be "gone for." Although their wives, in some instances, falsified blithely and earnestly from the front door steps, the searches usually were rewarded by discovering the recalcitrants in bed—if not in fact under the bed—endeavoring to avoid service at the levee.

A. E. Eden arrived in town with $1,000 for the use of any Odd Fellows among the citizens or among the troops who might be in need of assistance. Mr. Eden reported to Lieut. C. F. McClure of the 4th regiment, who is a grand guardian in the Odd Fellows.

United States Senator James Hamilton Lewis wired from Chicago that he was starting for Springfield to take up with Gov. Dunne a request to the president for more government boats in the Mississippi river for this place. Authorities here are anxious that they be sent.

TROUBLE AT MOUND CITY.

Labor troubles and of rapidly rising water at Mound City, Ill., eight miles from Cairo, complicated the relief work. To add to the excitement a big fire attacked some of the structures in the little town and the red glare in the sky was plainly visible in Cairo. Two companies were hastened to the scene to join those already there. The fire was extinguished without much loss, but shortly afterward a second glare in the heavens announced a second blaze, this time in the drainage district.

Shawneetown, Ill., was twelve feet deep in water and the levee was awash in places. The levee on the lower side was cut, so that the water entering was back water, and comparatively little damage was done by the wash.

As soon as the water in the levee had equaled the stage of the Ohio outside the militia permitted the telephone girls and the citizens' committee, consisting

largely of business men, to enter. A patrol of the flooded town was made by boat and business men guarded their stocks, put out of reach of the highest water before the town was cleared by the militia. The telephone exchange was above any possible water.

PEOPLE LIVE IN TENTS.

Of the 2,000 inhabitants of the town, 600 were in tents on the ridge a mile back of the city. A detachment of the militia was in charge. The rest of the people have gone elsewhere.

WHISKY, 5,000 BARRELS OF IT, IN FLOOD.

A large warehouse of the Rugby Distillery company in the western end of Louisville, weakened by flood waters, collapsed late Tuesday night, April 1st, releasing into the river about 5,000 barrels of whisky, valued at a quarter of a million dollars.

The threatened collapse of weakened buildings was the only source of anxiety as the crest of the flood passed Louisville with a stage of slightly more than forty-five feet.

Lower river points were under water to Paducah, with water more than two feet deep in the lower sections of the city, faced the menace of a useless lighting plant. Henderson and Owensboro, safe from flood damage themselves, were taxed with the care of hourly increas-

ing refugees. At Wickliffe, where are gathered more than 1,000 refugees from Hickman, Cairo and Columbus, the shelter situation became acute.

NATION PLEDGES AID.

Secretary Garrison of the war department, as he passed through Knoxville, Tenn., on his way to Washington, returning from his visit to the Ohio flood district, sent an identical message to the governors of the ten states lying in the Ohio and lower Mississippi valleys, pledging federal aid to all local authorities in handling the flood situation. The war secretary's message asked each of the executives to raise all the money and gather all the supplies possible in the circumstances. Mr. Garrison further suggested that each of these ten governors appoint a responsible person, who shall receive local appeals for federal assistance and transmit them to the war department in Washington.

"It is obvious," said Secretary Garrison, "that this plan will result in co-ordination, will prevent waste and will assure much more efficient service."

From the Register, Wheeling, W. Va.

CAMPING ON THE TRAIL OF SPRING
Drawn by T. V. Gilkison

CHAPTER XXX

HISTORY OF CITIES

OHIO COMMUNITIES ENGULFED ARE AMONG OLDEST IN NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

The Great Miami river, responsible for most of the deaths in the flood which swept Ohio, rises in Hardin county and flows southward for a distance of about 150 miles.

The Great Miami flows through Troy, Dayton, Hamilton and a score of smaller towns, entering the Ohio river at the southwest corner of the state, 20 miles west of Cincinnati.

Geographically speaking, the Great Miami is one of the most peculiar streams in the United States. It flows rapidly through a very fertile country which extends for miles hardly a foot above the ordinary high water level.

The Great Miami is navigable only for a small part of its length. The Miami canal runs along the river for a distance of 70 miles, passing through Dayton and Hamilton, and through this canal freight barges are operated. The Mad, Whitewater and West Branch

rivers flow into the Great Miami, and ordinary floods occur almost every spring along the valleys through which they flow.

DAYTON A CITY OF 116,577.

Dayton, Ohio, is the county seat of Montgomery county, and had a population of 116,577, according to the census of 1910. It is situated at the confluence of the Great Miami and Mad rivers and Stillwater and Wolf creeks. Four railroad lines pass through the city and 125 trains enter the city daily at the new union station, which was finished in 1900 at a cost of $900,000. The city has an area of 16½ square miles.

Dayton's manufacturing interests are widely diversified and include the manufacture of cash registers, railroad and street cars, scales, agricultural implements, water wheels, sewing machines and foundry products. Many establishments employ from five hundred to twenty-five hundred hands. The United States census of 1910 gave the average number of wage earners as 23,754. The total wages paid a year aggregate ten million dollars and the value of the products almost seventy-five million dollars.

Dayton has more interurban traction lines than any other city in Ohio; there are nine lines radiating in all directions from the city and having a combined mile-

age of more than seven hundred miles. Dayton has excellent schools, libraries and hospitals.

WAS FOUNDED IN 1795.

The town was laid out in November, 1795, by Gen. Israel Ludlow, and was named after Gen. Jonathan Dayton. The first settlers arrived in the spring of 1796. Situated in the midst of a fertile agricultural region and the center of a gigantic trade territory, Dayton grew to be the third largest manufacturing city in Ohio. It also is one of the richest cities per capita in the middle west.

Dayton has been called the home of the cash register, of the computing scale, the interurban car and the aeroplane. The Wright brothers did their pioneering work in aviation in the neighborhood of Dayton, and manufactured their machines and had their school of aviation there. The National military home for disabled volunteers is at Dayton.

HAMILTON OLDER CITY.

Hamilton, Ohio, is the county seat of Butler county, 32 miles southwest of Dayton and 15 miles north of Cincinnati. The town is on the Great Miami river and the Miami and Erie canal. It has a population of 35,000. Hamilton was founded in 1791 by Gen. Ar-

thur St. Clair and named in honor of Alexander Hamilton. It was incorporated as a town in 1810.

The excellent water power has been of great advantage in the development of the city and has made manufacturing the city's chief industry. The chief manufactures are flour, paper, beer, woolen goods, agricultural implements, machinery and tools. Heavy trade also is carried on in tobacco, hay, grain and vegetables.

OTHER PLACES.

Middletown, Ohio, another of the flood-stricken towns, is in Butler county on the Great Miami river and the Miami and Erie canal, about 34 miles north of Cincinnati. It, too, was the center of an agricultural section, but water power transformed the place and made it a manufacturing town. Its principal products have been bicycles, agricultural implements, paper, flour, dairy products and tobacco products. The population of Middletown is 13,000.

Other towns along the Great Miami river and the Miami and Erie canal between Dayton and where the Great Miami empties into the Ohio, are West Carrollton, Miamisburg, Franklin and Cleves; West Carrollton and Miamisburg are villages a short distance south of Dayton, formed for the greater part of manufacturing establishments and those employed in them.

Piqua, Ohio, has a population of 13,350, and is located 28 miles northwest of Dayton. Because of its aboundant water power it is noted as a manufacturing center. Large woolen mills and factories for making tools, carriages and furniture and stoves are located there. It also has a large stone quarry.

From Pittsburgh Sun

IN THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY

From N. Y. World

HELPING HANDS IN TIME OF NEED
Drawn by Macaulay

CHAPTER XXXI

DRIFTWOOD TALES

DAYS AND NIGHTS WITH THOUSANDS MAROONED IN MIDST OF WATERS—HORSES IN NATIONAL BANK—GIRL RESCUES TWENTY-SEVEN—DROWNED MAN "COMES TO LIFE."

Rescuers went through the parish of Emanuel church at Dayton, distributing ham sandwiches and other food to the famished flood victims.

"We will not eat ham sandwiches," said some of them. "This is Friday."

Father Sieber held aloft a sandwich and said, "It is all right to eat this," and suited the action to the word. He invoked a rule of the church which permits the suspension of certain religious obligations in time of stress.

Four horses enjoyed shelter in the Fourth national bank building, as safe and sound as the currency in its vaults. Some of the people to whom they owe their lives are dead. Before the flood reached its apex, the horses were taken into the bank. The people who saved them returned to more rescue work.

A woman in the upper story of a house in the flooded district on lower Fifth street turned down a box of fancy baked goods, and begged a relief party to give her "just one loaf of rye bread instead."

Her wish was granted.

Among the heroines was Mary Costello, daughter of Frank Costello, paper manufacturer. With a clothes line she rescued 27 women and children, who were dragged into an upper-story window at the Costello home.

Sister Helen of the Notre Dame convent in North Dayton saved 70 persons from the flood by throwing a rope from a window and then pulling refugees in off debris and out of the water. All the sisters in the convent were saved. The nuns prayed aloud while the water was creeping higher and higher on the walls of the convent.

FISHING FOR CANNED GOODS.

A dozen telephone girls down at Miamisburg, below Dayton, stuck to their posts and were marooned above a grocery. They managed to cut a hole through the floor, and with lines fished canned goods and loaves of bread from the water in the store. On this food they lived for two days.

Mrs. Frank Carnell, worth millions and part owner

of the National Cash Register Co., sent an appeal to the relief workers at the big plant asking that food be sent to her, as she was marooned in her home. The same boat in which her food supply was sent also carried supplies to Mary Smith, poor negress, prisoner in a humble frame building.

Clerks in the postoffice building found an old tank of water that could be made fit to drink by boiling. They had no fuel, but by shouting to the men and women in the Cappel building across the street a trade was arranged. The Cappel building refugees threw ropes to the postoffice and sent over some fuel. The clerks boiled the water and sent a quantity of it to their friends across the way, who were half dead with thirst.

Refugees throughout the business section established a means of communication by stretching ropes from building to building. Those better supplied with food sent provisions in this way to their less fortunate neighbors.

The body of a woman was found hanging to a chandelier in a house at the foot of Morton street. She had been caught by the flood without a chance of escape, lifted up to the ceiling and drowned.

"CAME TO LIFE."

C. A. Turney, of Columbus, Ohio, removed as dead

to the temporary morgue in Greenlawn cemetery, "came to life" last night.

A small boy standing beside the supposed corpse, shrieked. A doctor came running, restoratives were applied, and Turney spoke. He told how he was washed away from his family and floated to a tree on Greenlawn avenue. He hitched himself to the trunk with harness straps that drifted to him, and he remained there until cut down as dead.

BUSINESS IN RAILROAD STATION.

Richard Filley, 3203 W. 82d street, Big Four railroad conductor, the first Cleveland refugee of the Dayton flood to return home told the story of how he, with 115 passengers, 40 of them women, was marooned for two days and two nights on the top floor of the union station while water 12 feet deep surrounding the building.

A kind fate seemed to hover over the entire party, Filley says. None was drowned and never at any time were they without food or water.

"I left Cleveland at 9 p. m. aboard train No. 26, bound for Cincinnati, where we were due to arrive at 5 a. m. Tuesday," said Filley at his home. "We ran late, however, and it was 4:55 a. m. Tuesday when we crossed the Great Miami bridge at Dayton. We were

flagged as we approached the depot. The tracks beyond Dayton were in such bad shape that the dispatcher feared to let us proceed.

NONE FEARED FLOOD.

"We stood there just across the bridge until 8:30 a. m. The river was rising at a rapid rate, but no one had any fear. Finally the water covered the tracks, and then orders came quickly. Passengers on a Pennsylvania train lying alongside were loaded onto our cars and we were told to run into the depot. As we got alongside the shed the fires were put out in the engine by the flood. Water around us was waist deep.

"We then started lifting passengers up onto the train shed, and boosting them from there into the upper windows of the depot. We threw ropes to six men in a Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton train 125 feet away. They tied these around their waists and we pulled them to the shed.

"In the same way we rescued three men who had gone to sleep in the caboose of another train.

"The kitchen of the depot restaurant was on the second floor, and we had food for that day and night. The rain kept pouring down.

"Ludlow street was a rushing, mad river. It carried pianos, tables, horses, wagons and small houses along

with it. A man who refused to leave a little railway shanty when warned was drowned inside his coop.

LOOKED LIKE OCEAN.

"By Wednesday morning we seemed to be in the midst of an ocean. Scores of houses were floating quietly down the river. They were piled up against the Miami bridge until it finally gave way.

"Wednesday night the storm reached its climax. The rain fell as from a hose. Lightning flashed and thunder crashed. Then the worst of the fires broke out and from our windows we could see flames shooting 50 feet into the air. Both men and women knelt on the floors and prayed out loud. One man, a member of a theatrical troupe lost his mind completely and we had to place him under guard.

" 'We're goners,' a man said to me, and I was ready to believe him. Everyone thought the world had come to an end.

"Thursday morning brought relief, however, and as it began to get colder the water began to recede rapidly. We saw land during the day and by Friday morning the river was inside its banks.

TRAINMEN WERE HEROES.

"Kirk Conley, C. H. & D. conductor, Mike Kelley, Pennsylvania conductor, operator O'Neil and a negro

porter whose name I did not learn were the heroes of the party. They never lost their nerve, and led the men who got our food and water for us.

"Our food came from the debris which floated on the water. We had apples, ham, succotash, sausages and bananas."

From Pittsburgh Sun

IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

PRAYER FOR FLOODED CITIES

By Bishop David H. Greer.

"Oh merciful God and heavenly Father, who has taught us in Thy Holy Word that Thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men, give ear to the prayers which we humbly offer to Thee in behalf of our brethren who are suffering from the great water floods.

"Cause them in their sorrow to experience the comfort of Thy presence, and in their bewilderment the guidance of Thy wisdom.

"Stir up, we beseech Thee, the wills of Thy people to minister with generous aid to their present needs, and so overrule in Thy Providence this great and sore calamity that we may be brought nearer to Thee and be knit more closely one to another in sympathy and love. All which we humbly ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

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